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## **Wellesley Residents Foster Growth After Loss of Son Lecture featuring BU professor emeritus**

(Wellesley, MA – June 22, 2018) - Dr. Harold Wilkinson is a long-standing member of the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) board of directors. Devastated by the loss of his son Ed to a traumatic brain injury, Harold joined the board to lend his unique perspective – family member reeling from the loss of a child and neurosurgeon.

Retired from Massachusetts General Hospital in 2017, 55 years after the start of his neurosurgical residency, Dr. Wilkinson also spent 20 years as Professor, Chief of Neurosurgery, Director of Residency Program and directed the neurotrauma program at University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester.

“I am proud to say that in my time at BIA-MA I have seen the organization expand dramatically and effectively,” says Dr. Wilkinson. He mentions BIA-MA involvement in the Hutchinson case in 2008 that has brought about the expansion of services available to brain injury survivors, the work done to raise awareness about concussions in athletes and our veterans, and BIA-MA expansion of its education and prevention programs that provide continuing education for professionals as well as workshops for survivors and family members.

It is in this spirit that the Ed Wilkinson Memorial Fund was established. In memory of their son Ed, who passed away due to brain and lung injuries sustained in a January 2000 accident, Dr. Wilkinson and his wife Alice, spearheaded a fund intended to provide caregivers and loved ones with the support and tools they need to navigate the world of brain injury.

The first annual Ed Wilkinson Memorial Lecture will be held on Tuesday, June 26 at the Wellesley Free Library in Wellesley, MA, featuring Arthur E. Dell Orto, PhD, CRC. Dr. Dell Orto will be reviewing his book, “The Impact of Brain Injury on the Family: A life and Living Perspective.”

“Dealing with the complexity of brain injury and the medical establishment during acute care and rehabilitation can be frustrating and overwhelming. Recovery from a brain injury, though persistent, is often frustratingly slow. Caregivers and family members alike react differently to this stress, so continuing support is essential,” says Dr. Wilkinson. “BIA-MA is a valuable asset in providing support in many areas.”

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The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by brain injury while reducing its incidence and impact through prevention programs, education and training and legislative advocacy. Founded in 1982, the BIA-MA is the primary conduit between survivors and an extensive network of facilities, programs and professionals including 40 statewide support groups. The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts is a chartered affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America. For more information, visit [www.biama.org](http://www.biama.org) or call (800) 242-0030.