



## PSYCHIATRIST, PHARMACEUTICAL INVENTOR

MEET **GARY TOLLEFSON, MD, PhD**, CLASS OF 1969. HE REVOLUTIONIZED THE FIELDS OF PSYCHIATRY AND PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY.

**Gary Tollefson, MD**  
(1951-2009)

Dr. Gary Tollefson was a medical inventor who helped transform the field of neuropsychiatric medications. Dr. Tollefson, who held a medical degree in Psychiatry and a PhD in Psychopharmacology, is best known for the programs he directed for schizophrenia, Alzheimer's Disease, depression, and other related disorders. His leadership led to drugs that revolutionized the field and became household names. These include Prozac, Cymbalta, and Zyprexa among others. Dr. Tollefson is also personally credited with co-inventing the drug Strattera for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Later he became the chief executive officer of a new start-up company where he applied his background in psychiatry and pharmacology to the field of obesity and targeting the problem of excessive weight gain through neural pathways to the brain. He was a medical innovator, developing a novel anti-depressant without the typical side effects that can discourage patients from staying on their medications.

A Minnesota native, Dr. Tollefson obtained his Bachelor's Degree in psychology and his Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Minnesota where he completed a residency in psychiatry and a PhD in psychopharmacology. He was an active researcher who authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications and a number of book chapters.

Gary is survived by his wife Karen, stepson Cal, and his daughters Elizabeth, Theresa, and Tina.