



## **SCA Oral History Series**

**Interview of Dr. Edward Lowenstein by Drs. Glenn Gravlee and Michael Fitzsimons**

**Interview 1: April, 2025**

SCA is pleased to present an Oral History interview of Ed Lowenstein, who co-invented opioid-based anesthesia for cardiac surgery in the late 1960s. The interview was carried out in two separate sessions in mid-2025 by Glenn Gravlee, Professor Emeritus of Anesthesiology at University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Michael Fitzsimons, Vice Chair for Faculty Development at Mass General Brigham Department of Anesthesiology. Dr. Lowenstein is Emeritus Henry Isaiah Dorr Professor of Anesthesia at Harvard University School of Medicine. He was the first Chief of Cardiac Anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital and subsequently served as Anesthesiologist-in-Chief at Beth Israel Hospital. Both are Harvard Medical School hospitals in Boston. Dr. Lowenstein recalls that era of cardiac anesthesiology and also tells the compelling stories of his childhood escape from Nazi Germany in the late 1930s and his journey from boyhood in Cincinnati to distinguished anesthesiology professor at Harvard.