

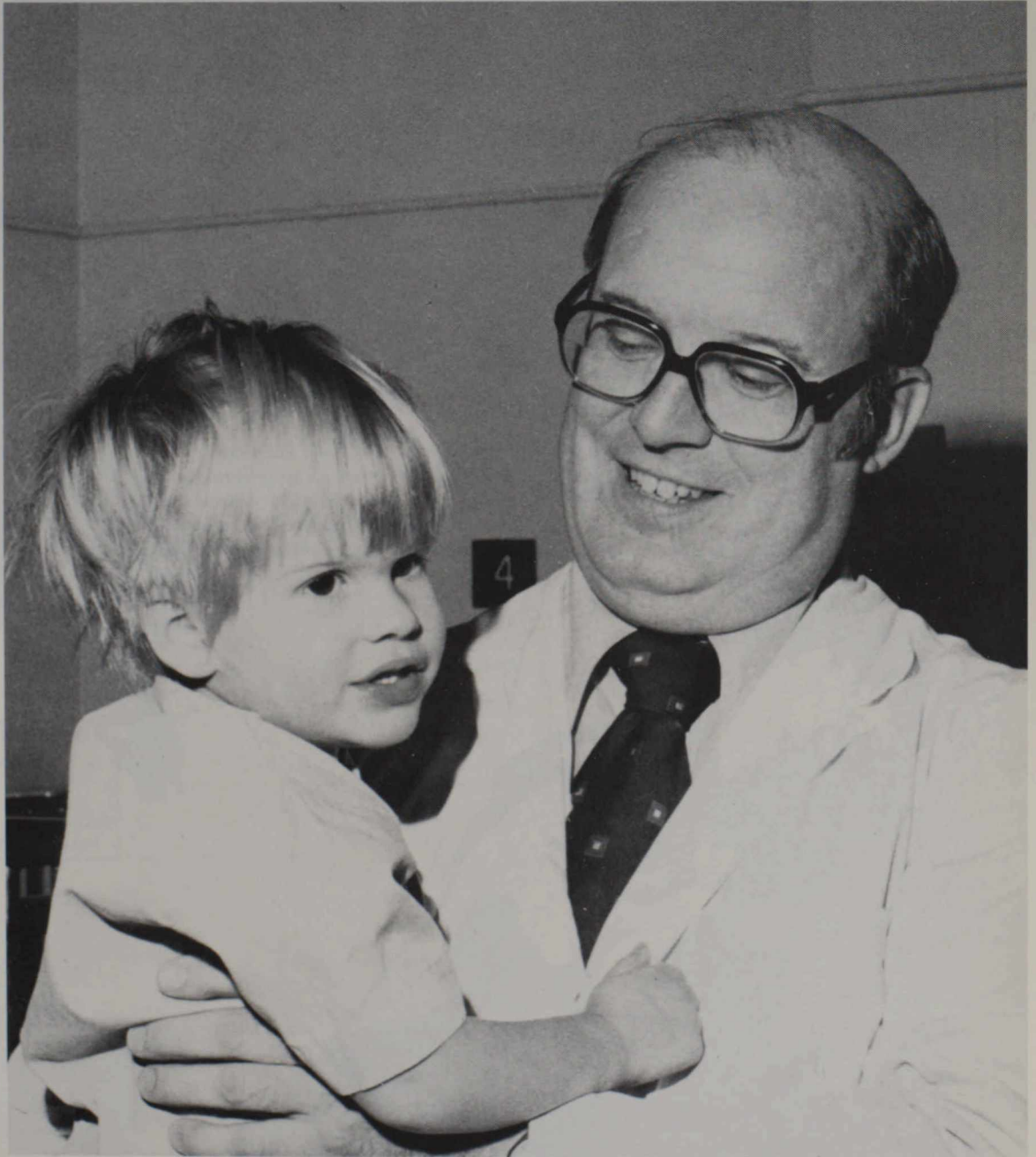
a person appears to have drowned, some of his brain cells are destroyed and many more are damaged.

If he is not treated properly the brain will swell and the damaged cells will also be destroyed. If the brain does not swell, however, these can recover.

The treatment is designed to prevent or at least retard the swelling—the cooling of the body is an essential step and so is the induced paralysis. A cough could jar the head and bump damaged cells against the skull. The pressure inside the skull is monitored while the child is in intensive care.

Dr. Conn recently spent a sabbatical year in San Antonio, Texas, at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, doing further research on drowning. He found, among other things, that the water drowning people take into their lungs has a beneficial as well as an adverse effect since it cools the oxygen that is going to the brain.

The principal lesson learned from the accumulated research may be that a person should be assumed to have a spark of life even if he has been underwater for fifteen minutes or more. One child who had been under for forty-five minutes before getting the full, intensive treatment recovered completely.



*Dr. Alan Conn and a patient who made a total recovery after being submerged for an estimated twenty minutes.*