Robert Gorlin was an internationally acclaimed expert on oral and maxillofacial pathology, as well as genetic defects and syndromes, craniofacial disorders, and hereditary hearing loss. He was a lifelong observer of rare forms of disease, studying physical malformations for clues about normal development and for answers to some of biology’s most basic questions.

Internationally applauded across a variety of disciplines, he was the recipient of numerous awards, including five honorary doctorate degrees from universities as far away as Athens, Dublin, and Copenhagen. In 1997, he was named a Senior Fellow in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. That same year, he received the prestigious Premio Phoenix Anni Verdi Award, presented by the Italian Medical Genetics Society in recognition of his basic and applied research in genetically transmitted diseases, as well as the Goldhaber Award from Harvard University.