

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

CLY HOWARD HATCHER (1900 – 1982)

Cly Howard Hatcher, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Surgery and former Head of the Orthopaedic Division of the School of Medicine, died December 19, 1982 of a massive heart attack from which he never regained consciousness. Memorial services were held at St. Bede's Episcopal Church on January 3, 1983. He is survived by his three children, Barbara, Nancy, and Henry. His lifelong companion and devoted wife, Annabel, died in 1981, leaving a great void in his life.

Howard Hatcher was a product of the West, having been born in Porterville, California on January 13, 1900. After graduation from Chafee Union High School, Ontario, California in 1918, he joined the U. S. Navy, in which he served as a medical corpsman during World War I until 1919. He entered the University of California, Berkeley in 1920 and obtained his A.B. degree in 1924. His medical school was the University of California in San Francisco, where he was awarded the M.D. degree in 1929.

In the middle of his medical education he married Annabel in 1927. He did his internship at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, from 1927-28, but found that it was not recognized by the University of California where he applied for a residency in Orthopaedic Surgery. As a result, he repeated his internship at the Southern Pacific Hospital in San Francisco in 1928-29.

This era of his Far Western education ended in 1930 when he volunteered to become the first resident in Orthopaedic Surgery at the new University of Chicago School of Medicine. It was here that he came under the influence of Dallas Phemister, M.D., Professor of Surgery. Together they built an intense interest in bone pathology, and for the next 30 years laid the foundations for contemporary orthopaedic surgery, as Howard Hatcher progressed from resident in Orthopaedic Surgery to a full professor at the University of Chicago in 1950.

In 1960, the Hatchers moved to Palo Alto to head the Orthopaedic Division of the Department of Surgery in the newly-built Stanford Medical School that moved from San Francisco. Dr. J. Carrot Allen, the new Professor of Surgery and former colleague of Dr. Hatcher, had recruited him to take on this new venture when most men were thinking of retirement. The move from the City to the Farm was disruptive. Only a few stalwarts from the old Stanford, such as Dr. Roy Cohn, came down from the City. Dr. David Hunt, a medical student at Stanford at the time, and now a Hatcher-trained practicing orthopaedic surgeon, wrote that when Dr. Hatcher arrived at Stanford "an authentic hero had arrived, the magnetism and the authority radiated." Three of that group of six surgical interns were drawn to orthopaedics that year!

In 1965 Howard became Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery, but remained with us as our teacher of orthopaedic pathology, patiently sitting on the other side of the microscope tutoring every resident for the next 15 years, and acting as the consultant for the faculty of the Orthopaedic Division.

He gained an international and national reputation in the diagnosis and treatment of bone tumors despite the fact that his *curriculum vitae* consisted of only 18 publications. He held fast to the belief that publication for publication's sake was useless.

Dr. Hatcher brought a meticulous scholarly approach to orthopaedics. He continually sought ways to improve the accuracy of diagnosis of difficult conditions, particularly benign and malignant tumors of bone. He was gifted in devising surgical approaches, combining a high likelihood of cure with minimal compromise of function. He always pursued a detailed knowledge of his patients so that they felt bound by his genuine interest in their lives; they would write him of marriage, child rearing, and family events, as well as reporting their physical status. His was the ultimate extended family.

Because of his scholarship in the field of bone pathology and its clinical correlations, radiologists and pathologists, as well as orthopaedic surgeons, will long remain in his debt for the advances he made in his field.

When you look for his monument, we must document the extraordinary circle of academicians in orthopaedics who were his graduate students at the University of Chicago: Professors James S. Miles (Colorado), J. Crawford Campbell (Boston), William F. Enneking (Florida), Michael Bonfiglio (Iowa), Eugene R. Mindell (Buffalo), Thomas D. Brower (Kentucky), Henry J. Mankin (Boston), and the late Mary Sherman (Dallas) and John J. Fahey (Chicago).

When he was an intern in Chicago, the chairperson of this resolution learned about Howard Hatcher from one of his former University of Chicago students, John J. Fahey, M. D., one of the "Hatcher" orthopaedic surgeons to become national and international leaders in the field. He said, "Howard Hatcher was different." Indeed he was! His difference was in strict scholarship without one taint of political motivation, sometimes a painfully direct comment, and scrupulous honesty in all his relationships. In 1973, the Orthopaedic Division under the leadership of Donald A. Nagel, M.D., established the Howard Hatcher Visiting Professorship, which has now become an annual event to ensure our memory of his contribution to orthopaedic surgery, and to rekindle his scholarly approach to patient care as a model for the faculty and students.

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