

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

ALVIN H. JACOBS

(1913 - 2001)

Dr. Alvin H. Jacobs, professor emeritus of dermatology and pediatrics at Stanford University School of Medicine, died at his home in Menlo Park on November 9, 2001. Dr. Jacobs was 88 years of age.

Alvin Hirsch Jacobs was born in Reno, Nevada, on March 7th, 1913. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1933 with a Bachelor of Science gold medallist degree. Dr. Jacobs graduated from medical school at Johns Hopkins University in 1937. After a rotating internship, Dr. Jacobs was a pediatric resident from 1938 to 1939 at Children's Hospital Pittsburgh. From 1939 to 1940, he was an assistant resident in neurology at the Neurological Institute of New York and then a pediatric infectious disease house officer at San Francisco County Hospital from 1940 to 1941. Dr. Jacobs was then Chief Resident in Pediatrics at Stanford University Hospital in San Francisco from 1941 to 1942.

In June of 1942 when the country was at war, Dr. Jacobs joined the Navy and was assigned to the Navy Medical Research Unit Number One. By 1946, he was a lieutenant commander and ready to return to practicing pediatric medicine.

In his private pediatric practice in San Francisco, Dr. Jacobs quickly recognized that 20% of his patients had primary skin complaints and that he was poorly prepared to deal with them. Dr. Jacobs found that his pediatrics colleagues were similarly unprepared and decided to remedy the situation. He began to be involved in the pediatric dermatology clinics at Stanford University Hospital and was appointed clinical professor of dermatology and pediatrics in 1958. From 1960 through 1961, Dr. Jacobs was a teaching and research fellow in pediatric dermatology within the Department of Dermatology at Stanford University School of Medicine. In 1972, Dr. Jacobs became a full-time faculty member as professor of dermatology and pediatrics. He remained on the faculty until 1992, at which time he was granted emeritus status.

Alvin Jacobs was a founder of the Society of Pediatric Dermatology and served as the first president. In many ways, Dr. Jacobs was to pediatric dermatology what George Washington was to the establishment of the United States. He began his career focusing on common dermatological conditions in children such as birthmarks, atopic dermatitis, and cutaneous infections. Dr. Jacobs was an invited speaker for thousands of lectures nationally and internationally to pediatric and dermatology communities.

Dr. Jacobs was a devoted family man. He was the beloved husband of the late Opal Jacobs. Dr. Jacobs is survived by their three daughters Annette Koppl, Sandra Boutcher, and Patricia Hershey, ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Dr. Alvin Jacobs will be greatly missed by many who were influenced by his direction as well as the patients who were cared for by him.

Alfred T. Lane, Chair
Judith Swain