

## **MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

### **ANNE STONE YEAGER (1939 – 1984)**

Anne Stone Yeager died at Stanford University Hospital on October 31, 1984, suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 46. Dr. Yeager was an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Stanford University Hospital and Children's Hospital at Stanford.

Anne Yeager's acquaintance with academic medicine began early in that her father was a surgeon affiliated with the University of Maryland Medical School. She became interested in sciences during her undergraduate years at Cornell where she majored in zoology. She went on to Cornell Medical School and received her M.D. in 1965. Her interest in infectious disease first appeared when she, as an undergraduate medical student, successfully completed an investigation of streptococcal strains. During her house staff training at the University of Washington affiliated hospitals, she became acquainted with the subspecialty of pediatric infectious diseases and clinical virology. She then went on to be a fellow in pediatric infectious disease at the University of Colorado with Dr. Henry Kemp who was a pioneer in studies of viral infections in children. Before she came to Stanford in 1974, she spent four years as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Medical Center during which she established herself as an independent investigator in studies of pediatric viral disease. Her appointment at Stanford began with the recognition by Dr. Irving Schulman that infectious diseases should be established as a division within the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Yeager was recruited to start the Division of Infectious Disease in the Department of Pediatrics.

While at Colorado Dr. Yeager began working with nursery acquired cytomegalovirus infection and demonstrated the probable role for transfusions in the acquisition of cytomegalovirus in newborns. Her initial major study at Stanford was a carefully designed controlled study to determine the exact role of blood products in the transmission of cytomegalovirus infection to high risk infants. Recognizing the importance of blood products as a source of CMV in infants, she was quick to study the transmissibility of CMV to other compromised hosts such as leukemics and also investigated CMV transmission to hospital personnel.

Her recognition of the importance of blood transfusion in acquisition of neonatal CMV infection led to her development of a rapid test for cytomegalovirus antibody which has become the major method used around the country to screen blood products for administration to such susceptible hosts as newborns. All of this work led to Dr. Yeager's definitive study on how to prevent transfusion-acquired cytomegalovirus infection in newborn infants. This study has clearly influenced the management of high risk newborns throughout the world and has inspired others to investigate CMV infection, not only in newborns but in other potentially susceptible individuals.

Dr. Yeager always took her directions for research from her clinical practice. Her work on measles followed from her observation of a single child who developed encephalitis due to measles despite having been previously immunized. This observation led to a study designed to examine the reasons for failure of measles immunization. The result of this study influenced vaccine practice in this country in that she was the first to recognize that many children immunized at or before 12 months were not protected from subsequent infection.

In the late 70s, several infants with severe herpes simplex infections were admitted to Stanford Hospital. Dr. Yeager recognized that this was due to an increase in genital herpes in the mothers of children. In the last five years Dr. Yeager's interests have turned toward efforts to prevent neonatal herpes infections by accurately determining the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and potential methods of treatment and prevention of this infection.

When one looks at the career of Anne Yeager, it is clear that her first concern was her patients. Being such a concerned physician and human being, she worked extremely hard to develop the best approaches to the management of the difficult patients who were referred to her care at Stanford University Medical Center and the Children's Hospital at Stanford. No effort was spared, and no resource was ignored. Very original and thoughtful analysis always stood behind her clinical activities. In each area that she worked she delved deeply enough to be a reference locally and nationally for physicians managing the same sorts of patients. Anne Yeager provided guidance to pediatricians not only through her research but through her summaries of general approaches to the management of infectious disease problems, recently turning her attention to the major problem of infections as they occur in day care centers.

In addition to initiating a service in pediatric infectious disease, Dr. Yeager also initiated a postdoctoral training program. The five fellows who have completed that program are all pursuing careers in academic pediatric infectious disease. Her service to our institution was outstanding through her roles on the Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee, and the Infection Control Committee of Stanford University Hospital as well as her direction of the Microbiology Laboratory of Children's Hospital at Stanford and her service on the Medical School Senate. The sad fact that she will not be able to partake in the efforts within the new Children's Hospital at Stanford is heightened by the great deal of effort that she had contributed to its planning.

Anne Yeager's most important contribution to Stanford will live on in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Disease which she created. Her dedication as a teacher and her exceptional concern for her patients will be a standard for all who follow.

Thomas C. Merigan, Chair  
Anne M. Arvin  
Philip Sunshine