

Alabama Chapter

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# American College of Physicians

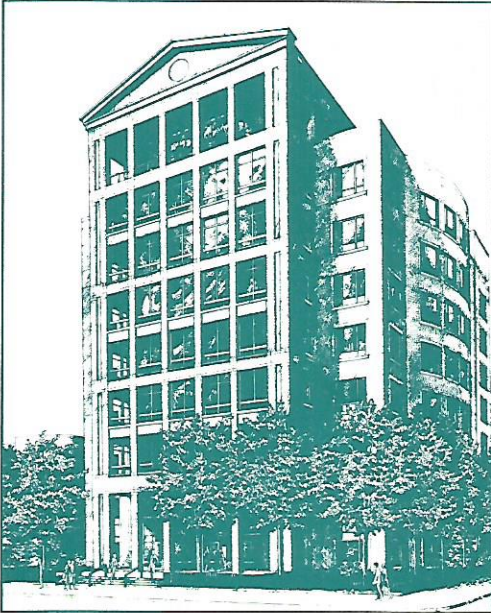
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## Laureate Award

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June 9, 1995

Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, Alabama



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## **Alabama Chapter Laureate Award American College of Physicians**

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows and Masters of the American College of Physicians who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community, their chapter, and the American College of Physicians.

Recipients of this award shall bear the title:  
Laureate of the Alabama Chapter.

Awards shall be made at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The awardee should accept the recognition in person, unless excused by the Governor. The awardee is to be nominated by a process that may originate from the Awards Committee or from any member of the chapter. The nomination must document the attributes and accomplishments of the nominee.

Awardees shall be senior physicians and Fellows or Masters of long-standing, with acknowledged excellence and peer approval in the field of internal medicine. In addition, awardees should have served their chapter with distinction. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements.

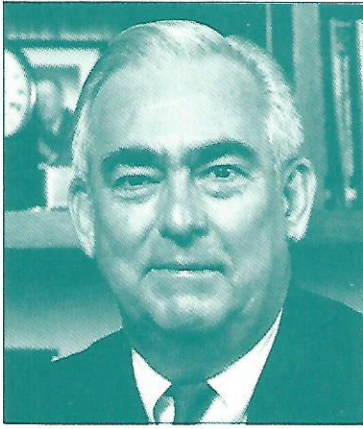
*It is with distinct pleasure that the Alabama Chapter honors Fellows and Masters of the American College of Physicians. These physicians are long-standing and loyal supporters of the College, have rendered distinguished service to their chapter, and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the American College of Physicians is known.*

*We salute and honor them on this occasion and we wish them well in the future.*

**Alan M. Siegal, MD, FACP**  
**ACP Governor, Alabama Chapter**

In honor of their service to internal medicine, the 1995 Alabama Laureate Award is presented to:

**Dick D. Briggs Jr., MD, FACP**  
**Irving A. Koffler, MD, FACP**



**DICK D. BRIGGS JR., MD, FACP**

Dr. Briggs was born in Electric Mills, Mississippi, in 1934. Following public school in Meridian, Mississippi, he earned his bachelor of arts degree in chemistry, Optime Merens, from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. At Sewanee he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and served as the Latin Salutatorian of the Class of 1956. He received his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and subsequently took his internship and first year of residency training in internal medicine at the University of Alabama Hospitals in Birmingham.

Following 2 years as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, Dr. Briggs returned to the University of Alabama Hospital to complete his medical residency and to become an instructor and chief medical resident under Dr. Walter B. Frommeyer. After pulmonary training in Birmingham with Drs. Ben V. Branscomb and Joe R. Norman, he was appointed assistant professor of medicine in 1968 and also served as director of medical education at Carraway Methodist Hospital. In 1971 he was named director of the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He became a professor of medicine in 1972, and continued his tenure as division director, assisting in the growth of the division from three faculty members to more than twenty faculty and ten fellows by 1992, when he relinquished the directorship. During this time, the division of pulmonary and critical care medicine attained

national prominence because of the contribution of several faculty members who had been recruited by Dr. Briggs. From 1981 to 1995, Dr. Briggs served as the vice chair of the department of medicine, and in 1989, he was named to the eminent scholar chair in pulmonary diseases by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

From 1988 to 1992, Dr. Briggs was also the president, CEO, and medical director of the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation, P.C. During this time he was the Foundation's principal for planning, funding, designing, building, equipping, and opening the I.M. Pei designed Kirklin Clinic at UAB.

Dr. Briggs has contributed broadly to medical and community affairs throughout his career. He has served as President of the American College of Chest Physicians; President of the International Academy of Chest Physicians and Surgeons; Charter Member and President of the Association of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Program Directors; member of the American Board of Internal Medicine Board of Governors, and as Chair of the ABIM Pulmonary Disease Board; originator and director of the Pulmonary Disease Matching Program for Fellows; on the Board of Directors of the American Thoracic Society; member of the Board of Directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama; member of the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce; served as the first medical director of Complete Health, Inc.; and as President of the Alabama Tennis Association. Recently, he received The Breath of Life Award from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Dr. Briggs has been a Fellow in the American College of Physicians since 1968, and has been a speaker at numerous national, regional, and state meetings. He contributed as a member of the Pulmonary Committee for MKSAP IV, and he chaired the Pulmonary Committee for MKSAP V. In addition, he chaired the first Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care Medicine Subspecialty MKSAP.

Throughout his career, Dr. Briggs has maintained an active clinical practice in internal, pulmonary, and critical care medicine. He has been cited among the "best doctors in America" in books and national publications. He has also been continually involved with the teaching of medical students, housestaff, and other health care providers, and has received teaching awards for basic science and clinical teaching. He has published over 50 articles, book chapters, and monographs.

Dr. Briggs' wife, Susan Davis Briggs, is executive director of the Alabama Tennis Association. He is exceedingly proud of his entire family, but especially his children, Adrienne D. Briggs, MD; D.D. Briggs III, MD, and his wife, Elizabeth D. Briggs, MD; and his budding specialist in the culinary arts, Daniel R. Briggs.

The Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to honor Dr. Dick D. Briggs Jr. with its 1995 Laureate Award.



**IRVING A. KOFFLER, MD, FACP**

Dr. Koffler was born in Newark, New Jersey, on May 28, 1924. His family moved to Mobile, Alabama, when he was 13-years-old and Mobile remained his home until his retirement in 1991, when he moved 60 miles south to Gulf Shores, Alabama. In Mobile he went to Murphy High School and graduated in 1941. He attended Spring Hill College for 1 year, then transferred to the University of Alabama. He graduated and continued in Tuscaloosa for his first 2 years of medical school. He then transferred to Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis for his clinical years. His senior year was decelerated following World War II and he spent an extra 6 months at Washington University, all in a medicine elective with Dr. Barry Wood, chair of the department of medicine.

Dr. Koffler interned at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) University Hospitals in Birmingham. Following this he received a fellowship in pharmacology and medicine under the aegis of Dr. Robert S. Teague. He completed junior and senior residencies in internal medicine at UAB. During these years, he continued in the department of pharmacology and taught clinical therapeutics to senior medical students.

In 1951, he was called up with the Dixie Division, Alabama National Guard, for duty during the Korean War. He had previously served as an enlisted man in World War II for 3 years. Dr. Koffler returned to UAB after the Korean War and was given an appointment as instructor in

medicine by Dr. Walter B. Frommeyer, who was then chief of medicine at the VA Hospital. In 1965, Dr. Koffler returned to Mobile and began solo practice in internal medicine. After several years he entered group practice, which through the years increased to a maximum six physicians, including his son, Dr. Warren (Randy) Koffler.

Dr. Koffler was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in 1954, and recertified in 1974. He was elected to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians in 1962. He was active in the founding of the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine in the late 1950s, and was an early President of ASIM, in addition to serving as a board member and as a regional representative to the national organization from 1960 through 1963. Dr. Koffler served on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield board from 1964 through 1967. He also served on the board of the Mutual Assurance Society of Alabama during its early founding years.

During the late 1960s, Dr. Koffler enjoyed working as chair and co-chair with Dr. John Packard of the Alabama Regional Medical Program. This federally funded program was instrumental in developing and funding programs which today are considered routine parts of the medical scene, such as EMT training, neonatal ICUs, group purchasing programs for rural hospitals, and CPR training programs for firemen, policemen, etc.

During the last 20 years of his practice, Dr. Koffler was heavily committed to cardiovascular disease, both in practice and in hospital teaching programs. He was co-founder with Dr. Gary Rich and Dr. Martin Lester of the first fully developed cardiac rehabilitation program in Alabama. This program began in 1978, and continues as part of the cardiovascular program at Mobile Infirmary under the name of "Bounce Back". Dr. Koffler began working in echocardiography in the late 1970s when only paper strip B-mode studies were available, and progressed through 2D, Color Doppler, and TEE as they developed. He functioned as an echocardiographer in private hospitals in Mobile and as chair of the committee of echocardiography at Mobile Infirmary.

Dr. Koffler retired from private practice in 1991. In 1993 when "withdrawal symptoms" became acute he returned to medicine, working at the Primary Care Clinic of the USA School of Medicine, on a part-time basis, seeing patients and teaching third-year medical students and medical residents.

The Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to honor Dr. Irving A. Koffler with its 1995 Laureate Award.