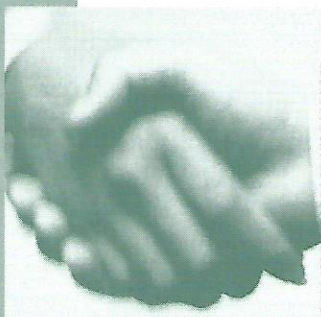


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**Alabama  
Chapter**

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*Laureate Award*



“No  
person  
was ever  
*honoured*  
for what  
he *received*.  
Honour  
has been the  
*reward*  
for what he  
*gave.*”

—Calvin Coolidge

## Laureate Award

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows or Masters of the College 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–American Society of Internal Medicine.

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

These awards shall be presented at the annual scientific meeting. The awardees should accept the recognition in person, unless excused by the Governor. The awardees are 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.

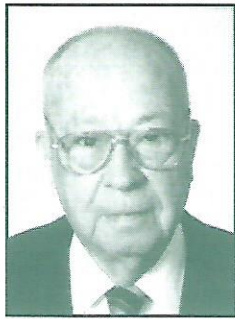
The awardees shall be senior physicians and Fellows or Masters of long-standing, with acknowledged excellence and peer approval in the field of internal medicine. In addition, the awardees should have served the Chapter with distinction. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements.

It is with distinct pleasure that this year the Alabama Chapter presents Laureate Awards to Arthur L. Ennis, MD, FACP and William A. Curry, MD, FACP. They are long-standing and loyal supporters of the College, have rendered distinguished service to the chapter, and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the College is known.

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

**William E. Dismukes, MD, MACP**  
**ACP–ASIM Governor, Alabama Chapter**

**Arthur L. Ennis,  
MD, FACP**



Arthur L. Ennis, MD, was born in Lanett, Alabama in 1925. After graduating from West Point High School in West Point, Georgia, he attended the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina from 1942 to 1943. He then left to join the U.S. Army Air Force and served as a waist gunner on a B-17, completing thirteen missions. Upon returning to the United States, Dr. Ennis (or Bill, as he is called) attended and graduated from Auburn University in 1949 with a BS degree. Subsequently, he worked as a chemist until 1954 when he entered the Medical College of Alabama. After receipt of his MD in 1958, he completed his internship and residency in internal medicine at the Lloyd Noland Hospital in Fairfield, Alabama in 1961 and completed a fellowship in endocrinology at the Medical College of Alabama in 1962. For the next two years Dr. Ennis served as Assistant Chief of Medicine at the Birmingham Veterans Administration Hospital. Subsequently, he left Birmingham and pursued a highly successful career in internal medicine and endocrinology in Gadsden, Alabama, where he was highly regarded for his clinical skills and administrative leadership.

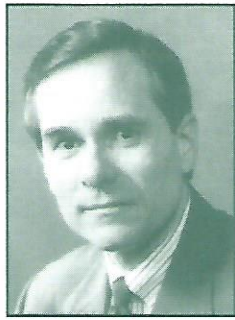
Dr. Ennis was heavily involved in medical affairs at Gadsden hospitals and in the community at large. He served as President of the staff and Chief of Medicine at both hospitals in Gadsden; Chief of Cardiology, Holy Name of Jesus Hospital; and Chief, Emergency Department, Baptist Memorial Hospital. Other activities included membership on the Board of Health and Board of Censors of Etowah County, as well as three terms as President, Medical Society of Etowah County; President, Alabama Diabetes Association; and member, AIDS Consortium of Etowah and Calhoun counties. Dr. Ennis has been an active Fellow of the American College of Physicians-

American Society of Internal Medicine and member of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, for which he served as a delegate. For many years, he has also been heavily involved in Physicians Who Care, which is dedicated to community service.

Dr. Ennis has had a long and distinguished career in the military—active duty and U.S. Army Reserve. In 1979, he received a commission as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army Reserve, subsequently was promoted to Colonel, and eventually assumed command of the 3345th U.S. Army Reserve Hospital based in Birmingham. This hospital received numerous citations and honors for its competency and efficiency under Dr. Ennis' leadership. In addition, he and his troops served on several medical missions to Central and South America. During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he was Director, Outpatient Clinic, Anniston Army Depot, and served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs. As a result of his excellent record of service, Dr. Ennis has received many awards and honors including an Air Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Medal, four Medal of Merit awards, and a European Theater of Operation ribbon with three battle stars. Dr. Ennis also received the Legion of Merit, one of the highest military awards, and the Medal of Military Medical Merit, given to the top fifteen percent of physicians in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

In 1990, Dr. Ennis retired from private practice, but continued to be active in the Army Reserve and in numerous local organizations and at the Birmingham VAMC. He is a computer enthusiast, an avid gardener, and a certified Master Gardener. Dr. Ennis and his wife, Helen, continue to live in Gadsden. They have three children and five grandchildren. For his sustained commitment to quality care for his patients, commendable leadership of the Gadsden medical community, and his many achievements as a military physician, Dr. Ennis is highly deserving of the ACP-ASIM Laureate Award.

**William A. Curry,  
MD, FACP**



William A. Curry, MD, grew up in the hills and swamps of Pickens County, in rural West Central Alabama. He graduated as valedictorian of a high school class of twenty-three, was guard on the football team, an Eagle Scout, surveyor of cotton land, and part-time radio announcer. His physician role model and mentor was (and is) Dr. William E. Hill of Carrollton, the fourth generation of his family to practice in that small town. Dr. Curry moved on to the University of Alabama for pre-medical studies, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and attended medical school at Vanderbilt, where his interest in medically underserved populations continued to grow. He served as Director of the Vanderbilt Urban Student Health Coalition and for that work received a CIBA Award. Dr. Curry also did his residency in internal medicine; after two years in the U.S. Public Health Service, he returned to Vanderbilt to serve as Hugh J. Morgan Chief Resident in Medicine under Dr. Grant Liddle. Dr. Curry is also a graduate of the Harvard Institute on Management and Leadership in Education.

Dr. Curry began what was to be a long relationship with the Tuscaloosa program of the University of Alabama School of Medicine. Working under Dr. Bill Winternitz, he combined practice in rural Pickens County with part-time clinical teaching in Tuscaloosa. Dr. Curry joined the program full-time in 1997 as Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, Interim Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and Assistant Dean for Rural Medicine, and was subsequently appointed Senior Associate Dean. In 1998, Dr. Curry became Dean of the College of Community Health Sciences and Associate Dean for Tuscaloosa and Rural Programs, University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Over the years, Dr. Curry has been a leading figure in organized medicine in Alabama and has represented well the interests of our specialty, internal medicine. In this arena, his most important positions include past President, Alabama Society of Internal Medicine; past President, Medical Association of the State of Alabama; and member of the State Board of Medical Examiners and the State Committee of Public Health. In addition, Dr. Curry has worked in a number of rural projects, serving as founding Chairman of the Rural Alabama Health Alliance, playing a leading role in the reform of state law and regulations for nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants, and founding both the Annual Alabama Conference on Rural Health and the University of Alabama Institute for Rural Health Research. Dr. Curry's other current interests include the appropriate role of technology in medical education and the relationship of community and economic development to rural health outcomes. His greatest professional satisfaction comes from teaching junior medical students.

Dr. Curry has been the recipient of numerous honors including Alabama Hospital Association Distinguished Service Award, 1996; Alabama Nursing Association Outstanding Non-Member Award, 1996; and Alabama Society of Internal Medicine Internist of the Year, 1996. Since the merger of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine, he has continued to be a highly active participant in our College. Dr. Curry and his wife Glenda have two daughters. His hobbies include essay-writing and fly-fishing. For his many contributions to all aspects of medicine in our state as teacher, caregiver, policymaker, and champion of rural health, our Alabama Chapter is proud to honor Dr. Curry with the ACP-ASIM Laureate Award.