

ACP

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE / Doctors for Adults

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Alabama Chapter

Laureate Awards



Laureate Award

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows and 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.

The recipient 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 their Chapter with distinction. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements.

It is with distinct pleasure that this year, the Alabama Chapter presents the Laureate Award to Jack McMahon, M.D., FACP and Ben Branscomb, M.D., 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.

James R. Bonner, MD, FACP
Governor, Alabama Chapter

“No

person

was ever

honored

for what

he *received.*

Honour

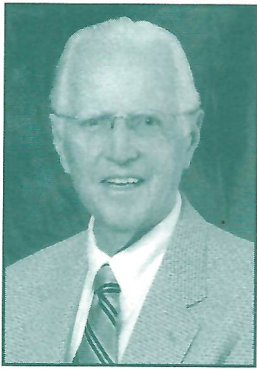
has been the

reward

for what **he**

gave.”

-Calvin Coolidge



*Jack McMahon,
M.D.*

Jack McMahon, M.D. grew up in Washington, DC where he also attended both college and medical school at Georgetown University. After an internship at Georgetown, he served in the United States Military as a Captain in the Medical Corps. During World War II he was in the South Pacific at various times stationed at Tonga, Fiji, Guadalcanal, New Britain, New Guinea and Luzon. After completing Internal Medicine training at the Mayo Clinic and spending 2 years in New Orleans he settled in Birmingham where he has practiced medicine for over 50 years, specializing in both rheumatology and gastroenterology.

Throughout his career, Dr. McMahon has been involved in medical education. He was instrumental in establishing the Internal Medicine residency for The Baptist System and directed that program for over 20 years. He chaired the Department of Medicine at Princeton for 31 years. He is a Clinical Professor Emeritus at UAB where he was an active faculty member for 43 years including 10 years as director of the Arthritis Clinic. He is credited with 22 medical publications the first in 1943 and the most recent in 1999. He remains active in The Baptist System teaching program especially in evaluation of resident clinical skills. He is a pillar of the Birmingham medical community, a re-

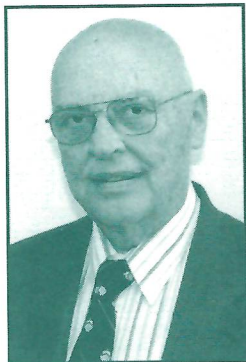
spected physician and dedicated teacher.

Dr. McMahon was elected to fellowship in the ACP in 1955 and to mastership in the American College of Gastroenterology in 1997. Perhaps his most special accolade is the Benemerenti Medal awarded by Pope Paul VI in 1965. This is one of the highest honors given to lay members of the Catholic Church. The medal which means "well deserving" is given for exemplary service to church, family and community.

Dr. McMahon was married to Virginia (ne Tracy) for 57 years before her death in 1999 and in 2001 married their mutual friend, Ann Schober. He has 6 children, 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. His interests include photography and travel by train.

In appreciation of his long and continuing career as a devoted physician and teacher the Alabama Chapter of the ACP is pleased to honor him with the Laureate Award.

*Ben Branscomb,
M.D.*



Dr. Ben Branscomb, M.D. was born in New York City and raised in North Carolina. He attended college and medical school at Duke and trained in Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago and Vanderbilt. During his medical training Dr. Branscomb contracted tuberculosis and was treated at the Trudeau Sanatorium at Saranac Lake. Never one to waste time, he also did a research fellowship at the Trudeau Foundation's Department of Pulmonary Physiology. This was his introduction to lung disease and to research. Later he was the first pulmonologist to join the National Heart Institute which was to become the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH.

He came to Alabama in 1955 to join Dr. Tinsley Harrison on the faculty of the then Medical College of Alabama. In Birmingham he established one of the first divisions of pulmonary medicine in the United States and soon began contributing to Dr. Harrison's textbook.

Dr. Branscomb has authored over 75 article in the medical literature and has been an invited lecturer at 20 academic medical centers. His areas of special interest include lung physiology, pulmonary function testing, emphysema and pulmonary rehabilitation. Among his many accomplishments

is development of the flow-volume loop which many of us use daily in our practice as a measurement of lung function.

In 1971 Dr. Branscomb was given an endowed chair as the Alabama Professor in Emphysema and Respiratory Disease which upon his retirement was renamed the Ben Branscomb Chair of Respiratory Diseases. When he retired from active practice in 1989 he was appointed Distinguished Professor Emeritus at UAB. Since retirement, Dr. Branscomb has continued to serve University as a teacher, a member of the Credentials Committee, an advisor to the Pulmonary Division, and a Goodwill Ambassador for the College of Medicine.

Jane and Ben Branscomb have been married for 56 years. They have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Dr. Branscomb has diverse interests that include deer hunting, cooking, jazz harmonica, woodworking and travel. He likes anything outdoors.

In recognition of his long and distinguished career in research, teaching, administration and patient care the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to honor Dr. Branscomb with the Laureate Award.

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