American College of Physicians

Alabama Laureate Award

Friday, May 29, 1992
Orange Beach, Alabama
The Alabama Chapter is pleased to honor two Fellows of the American College of Physicians who have been long-standing and loyal supporters, have rendered distinguished service to the Chapter, and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the American College of Physicians is known.

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

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

The 1992 recipients of the Laureate Award are:

John F. Burnum, MD, FACP
S. Richardson Hill, MD, FACP
The Laureate Award
American College of Physicians

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

Awards shall be made at the annual regional meeting. The awardee should accept this 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 any member of the Chapter. The nomination must document the personal attributes and accomplishments of the nominee.

It is expected that the awardees will be senior physicians and Fellows for at least 15 to 20 years, with a long history of excellence and peer approval in the specialty of internal medicine. It is also expected that they will have served their Chapter with distinction as Governor or in some other clearly definable manner. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements.

JOHN F. BURNUM, MD, FACP

Dr. Burnum was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on September 26, 1922. He graduated with honors from the University of Alabama in chemical engineering in 1946 and from Harvard Medical School, cum laude, in 1950. He then did postgraduate training in internal medicine at New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center, Duke University School of Medicine, and was chief resident in medicine at the Medical College of Alabama. Following his postgraduate training he entered private practice in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1954, where he has remained for the past 38 years.

During these years, he has not only maintained an active private practice but has been extremely active in local, state, and national medical activities. He has been involved in academic affairs at UAB School of Medicine and the University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, and is clinical professor of medicine at both campuses. In 1981, he helped to establish the Burnum Distinguished Faculty Award at the University of Alabama, which is given yearly. He has served as advisor to a University of Alabama president, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Institutes of Health. He has served on several committees of the American Society of Internal Medicine and is a past president of the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine. He has been an ACP Fellow since 1963 and was Governor of the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians from 1988 to 1991. He has also served on several committees of the College.
He was recently chosen to receive the Ralph O. Claypoole, Sr. Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians. This is a national award given to an outstanding practitioner of internal medicine and clinical faculty teacher. He has been an outstanding teacher and was named Teacher of the Year in 1982 by the College of Community Health Sciences in Tuscaloosa. He has published articles in several national medical journals, served on editorial boards of several national medical journals, and has given medical lectures throughout the United States.

He is married to Celeste Evans and they have three children and three grandchildren.

S. RICHARDSON HILL, JR., MD, FACP

Dr. Hill, Distinguished Professor, and Immediate Past President of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and a graduate of Duke University and Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University. He took postgraduate training as an intern, resident, and fellow in medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Hill’s professional field of interest is in internal medicine and endocrinology, and he holds certification from the American Board of Internal Medicine. He has been a Fellow of the American College of Physicians since 1961.

He began his career at UAB in 1954 as director of the division of endocrinology and metabolism, and in 1962 was named dean of the Medical College of Alabama. In 1968, Dr. Hill was appointed UAB vice president for health affairs, and 9 years later, in 1977, became the University’s second president, a position he held for 10 years. He also served as the first director of the University of Alabama System Medical Education Program, during the years 1972 to 1979. This program encompasses medical education and training programs at the three University campuses in Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and Huntsville.

Dr. Hill has served on many prestigious committees and advisory groups in the health field, and is recognized as one of the country’s leading authorities in the area of health manpower training and the delivery of health care services. Among the important national posts he has held are the presidency of the Association of Academic
Health Centers and the presidency of the American Federation for Clinical Research. He was appointed to the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine by President Jimmy Carter in 1978, and served as chairman of the Board in 1979 and 1980. He is a member of many of the nation’s most distinguished societies, and was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences’ Institute of Medicine and to the Alabama Academy of Honor. Dr. Hill holds honorary doctor of science degrees from both Wake Forest University and the University of Alabama.

Dr. Hill served as chairman of Governor Wallace’s Task Force on Economic Recovery in 1982 and 1983. He presently serves on Governor Hunt’s Advisory Committee on Mental Health, and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. From 1981 to 1985, Dr. Hill served on the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and was chairman of that group in 1983. He also has served as a director of Vulcan Materials Company since 1981. He is a member of Mountain Brook Club, Shoal Creek, The Club and The Summit Club, and is on the boards of many local civic groups and organizations.

He and his wife, Janet, are active in the community and cultural life of Birmingham—Janet is a sustaining member of the Junior League. The Hills reside in Birmingham, Alabama, and they have four children and five grandchildren.