ORAL HISTORY OF TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF AMERICAN CARDIOLOGY

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY
1949 - 1974
Each of the participants has been asked to select the ten references from their bibliography that each considered the most significant of their work. Each bibliography varies somewhat in style as submitted by the contributor.
ORAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN CARDIOLOGY

There is something special about a 25th anniversary. By the 25th birthday most young people have made their career decisions . . . most have already established their homes. But despite these accomplishments, the thoughtful man and woman pauses on his 25th birthday long enough to reexamine his goals; he may shift a bit, the direction of his aims.

By their 25th wedding anniversary, a couple has done about all they can for their children and at that time the couple reexamines what they hope to accomplish during the remainder of their lives. The admonition of Horace Mann takes on a special meaning . . . "Be afraid to die until you have achieved some victory for humanity."

So it is with organizations . . . the 25th anniversary has a special meaning.

1974 marks the 25th anniversary of the American College of Cardiology. From a humble beginning with just a few members the College has grown to embrace 6,000 cardiovascular specialists in the United States and throughout the world. Its purpose of stimulating the continuing education of its membership and all physicians who care for patients with heart disease has been established. Its influence as a force for determining how patients with heart disease are managed is well recognized.

The 25th anniversary is a time for the American College of Cardiology to reexamine its goals and to develop the energies necessary for continued influence for leadership. It is proper that the College should take on the responsibility of constructing HEART HOUSE as a Learning Center. New medical knowledge is accumulating in an exponential manner. New methods of learning, applicable to the busy practitioner, must be developed. This is the purpose of HEART HOUSE.

The life of the American College of Cardiology has embraced the GOLDEN ERA OF CARDIOLOGY . . . 1949-1974. In these 25 years there was probably produced as much new knowledge as during the total 300 years from the publication of William Harvey’s De Mortu Cordis (1628) to the first cardiac catheterization of the human heart by Werner Forssman in 1928.

E. Grey Dimond has done a great service to cardiology in general and the American College of Cardiology in particular by collecting the comments of 38 "giants" of the GOLDEN ERA OF CARDIOLOGY and integrating these comments into the Oral History of American Cardiology. It is proper that the original copies of these historical comments should be placed in the cornerstone of HEART HOUSE, Bethesda, Maryland, in 1974.

At some future date the cardiologists of another century may listen to this history and may smile at how little we knew. May the contributions of the GOLDEN ERA OF CARDIOLOGY . . . 1949-1975, be as worthy of immortality as those of some of the "giants" of the previous 300 years—observations like:

1761—John Baptist Morgangi: Description of Mitral Stenosis, Heart Block, Calcareaous Stenosis of the Aortic Valve with Regurgitation; Coronary Sclerosis and Aneurysm.
1772—William Heberden: Account of a Disorder of the Breast.
1785—William Withering: An Account of the Foxglove.
1819—René Théophile Hyacinthe Laënnec: Treatise on Mediate Auscultation.
1846—William Stokes: Observation on Some Cases of Permanently Slow Pulse.
1862—Austin Flint: On Cardiac Murmurs.
1867—Sir Thomas Lauder Burton: On the Use of Nitrite of Amyl in Angina Pectoris.
1912—James Bryan Herrick: Clinical Features of Sudden Obstruction of the Coronary Arteries.

But enough of this!

"Do not look back and do not dream about the future, either. It will neither give you back the past, nor satisfy your other daydreams. Your duty, your reward . . . your destiny . . . are here and now."

Dag Hammarskjöld—1957

Henry D. McIntosh, M.D., F.A.C.C.
President, 1974-75
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Houston, Texas
John William Gofman, M.D.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


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Date and Place of Birth: September 21, 1918, Cleveland, Ohio

Education:
1939 Oberlin College, A.B.
1939-1940 First year of Medical School, Western Reserve University
1943 University of California at Berkeley, Ph.D.
1946 University of California Medical School, San Francisco, M.D.

Internship:
1946-1947 Intern in Medicine, University of California Hospital, San Francisco, California

Appointments:
1947-1949 Assistant Professor, Division of Medical Physics, University of California, Berkeley
1949-1954 Associate Professor, Division of Medical Physics, University of California, Berkeley
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