

## IN MEMORIAM

*Norman Fritz Miller, M.D.*

*(1894 - 1990)*

Norman Fritz Miller, M.D. was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan, August 14, 1894 and died October 29, 1990 at the age of 96 in Ashville, North Carolina. He attended the University of Michigan in both the undergraduate and medical school, receiving his B.S. and M.D. degrees in 1920. After his internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Michigan he was appointed Assistant Professor for a two-year period.

In 1926, Dr. Miller moved to the University of Iowa Medical School as an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and was promoted to Professor there in 1928. He remained at Iowa until 1931 when he returned to Ann Arbor to assume the Chairmanship of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Michigan and as a Professor in this specialty. He retained this position until his retirement at the end of 1963 -- some 33 years later. In 1965, Dr. Miller was appointed Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology in this institution.

During his time at Michigan, Dr. Miller developed one of the outstanding departments in the United States. He trained more than 100 residents at two or three residents per year; 15 of whom became full professors and 14 others who became chairmen of departments throughout the United States. Dr. Miller was the senior author of over 100 scientific publications and he published two books related to our field. Parenthetically, the medical students referred to his lectures, which often reflected the Art of Medicine, as "The Hour of Charm".

Dr. Miller was a member of the American Gynecological Society and was its President in 1957. He was President of the Central Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in 1932 and 1933, and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, serving as a member of the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee. He was Second Vice-President of the American College of Surgeons in 1965. Dr. Miller was a Founding Fellow of The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. He was a Director of the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology from 1940 to 1949 and served as its Vice-President in 1949. Dr. Miller was President of The Obstetrical and Gynecological Travel Club from 1949 to 1955. Finally, he was an honorary member of 15 prestigious societies both here and abroad.

Throughout Dr. Miller's tenure as Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Michigan, he maintained his interest in clinical care, research and teaching. Because of his accomplishments and because of the pedestal on which his graduates placed him, the Norman F. Miller Gynecologic Society was founded in 1956 to celebrate his twenty-fifth anniversary as Chairman of the Department. The members of this society provided the major impetus in funding the Norman F. Miller Professorship of Gynecology which was established in 1987. As a footnote, I was named the first Norman F. Miller Professor of Gynecology at that time.

Dr. Miller will best be remembered by those who were closest to him as a disciplined, determined, demanding, dedicated and distinguished professor whose many accomplishments reflected not only his superior intellect, his surgical skills and his prototype as a teacher but his enduring commitment to his patients. He was a true perfectionist and a sincere gentleman. His tall stature and purposeful gait while walking the halls of the University Hospital characterized his personality, his principles and his position. He was referred to as the "Professors' Professor".

In closing, in his last few years while going around the nursing home with his walker having experienced both mental and physical compromise, when asked where he was going he would say, "I'm going to go and make rounds!"

Dr. Miller is survived by his daughter, Mary Miller Johnson of Ashville, North Carolina and two sons, Norman F. Jr. of Arden, North Carolina and Edward K. of Tierra Verde, Florida. His wife, Dorothy, preceded him in death in 1989.

All Honor to His Name!

George W. Morley, M.D.  
11-25-91