

News

Office of Medical Information
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
5323 Harry Hines Boulevard Dallas, Texas 75235-9060 214/688-3404

June 13, 1988

CONTACT: Diane Adell
OFFICE: 214/688-3404
HOME: 214/750-6009

****Renowned anesthesiologist
receives AMA top award.

DALLAS -- Dr. M.T. Pepper Jenkins, McDermott Professor of Anesthesiology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, has received one of the most prestigious awards in medicine -- the 1988 Distinguished Service Award of the American Medical Association. The annual award is presented to an AMA member for "meritorious service in the science and art of medicine." The award, which will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates on June 26, consists of a gold medal and a \$2,500 stipend.

Jenkins served as a professor and chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology for 30 years. He was chief of anesthesiology from 1948 to 1981 at Parkland Memorial Hospital and established the first recovery room west of the Mississippi River four months after he arrived. He became professor and chairman of anesthesiology at the Southwestern Medical School in 1951.

Jenkins helped build the Parkland anesthesiology department into one of the largest in the country. When he arrived in 1948, there were eight nurse anesthetists and no anesthesiologists in the department. Now there are more than 200 total department personnel. This year, there are more than 80 residents, making it the largest anesthesiology residency program in the nation. The number of anesthetic procedures exceeds 30,000 annually.

Dr. Kern Wildenthal, UT Southwestern president, says Jenkins has been a critical component of the school: "Dr. Jenkins played a vital role in the foundation of Southwestern and has continually demanded high standards and innovative thinking in the practice of anesthesiology. His contributions to the department are unequalled, and he is well-known as a fine practitioner, academic leader and administrator. Over the years, Dr. Jenkins has been recognized by many medical societies for his achievements in anesthesiology, and this award from the American Medical Association exemplifies his many contributions to medicine."

Jenkins has held several positions in the AMA. He was an AMA representative on the National Residents Matching Program Board of Directors and the Liaison Committee on Graduate Medical Education. He was chairman for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Council on Medical Education, and the

(More)

Liaison Committee on Specialty Boards. He also was chairman of the Section of Anesthesiology and the Interspecialty Advisory Board of the AMA. He now holds positions in the Section Council on Anesthesiology and in the AMA House of Delegates. Jenkins still serves as one of the 14 members of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a joint committee of the AMA and American Association of Medical Colleges, which inspects for accreditation all medical schools in the United States and Canada.

Jenkins, who has authored two textbooks and more than 80 articles, also has served as the president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and of the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists.

He received the Distinguished Service Award of the ASA in 1978 and the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award of 1974 from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. In 1980 he was elected an honorary member of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland in recognition of distinguished services to the science and art of anesthesia. Jenkins was awarded Fellowship of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons in England in 1968 and of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1978.

In the late 1950s Eugene and Margaret McDermott became interested in Jenkins and his work. In 1960 they funded the Visiting Professorships in Anesthesiology, a program that brings international physicians to UT Southwestern for one to two years. In 1966 Mr. McDermott endowed the Margaret Milam McDermott Chair, which Jenkins holds, and in 1977 Mrs. McDermott endowed the M.T. Pepper Jenkins Professorship in Anesthesiology, which is held by the department chairman, Dr. A.H. Giesecke Jr.

Jenkins has contributed to the medical field in varied roles. He was invited with an AMA group to the People's Republic of China in 1974 and was instrumental in evaluating the role of acupuncture in American medicine. Also, he was part of the team that tried to save John F. Kennedy.

Jenkins and his wife, Betty, have three children and one grandson: Christine, a professional photographer; Philip, a resident in anesthesiology; and Gregory, a dermatologist who is married to figure skater Peggy Fleming, and their son, Andrew.

XXX

Distribution: AA,ADM,SL

Note: The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas comprises Southwestern Medical School, Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School.