

(No monograph)



THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

THE MERRIMON LECTURE
Established by the late Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry

MICHAEL E. DeBAKEY, M.D.
PRESIDENT OF BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND
CHAIRMAN OF ITS DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HEART AND BLOOD VESSEL
RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION CENTER, HOUSTON

on

“RELIGHTING THE LAMP OF EXCELLENCE”

Thursday, October 26, 1978

8:00 PM
Carroll Hall
Carolina Campus

MICHAEL ELLIS DeBAKEY was born in 1908 in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He was educated at The Tulane University of Louisiana, where he received the B.S. (1930), M.D. (1932), and M.S. (1935) degrees. Trained as a surgeon at Tulane, he is the famous pupil of an outstanding mentor, Dr. Alton Ochsner, for whom two of his sons are named. With intervals away for study at Strasbourg and Heidelberg, he spent most of the 1930's developing new techniques and sharpening his surgical skills. He was a member of the surgical faculty at Tulane University School of Medicine from 1932 to 1948, reaching the rank of Associate Professor before leaving in 1948 to become Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at Baylor University College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

Dr. DeBakey became Chief of General Surgery, Surgical Consultants' Division of the Surgeon-General, Army of the United States, after Pearl Harbor and served there with distinction until the end of World War II. He has continued to serve as a military reservist and has been a Consultant to both the Army and the Veterans Administration since 1946. His genius as a surgeon and an administrator continued to flower when he moved to Baylor, and during the 1950's and 1960's he managed to lead the rapidly developing field of vascular surgery on the one hand, while developing and administering an outstanding Department of Surgery on the other. At Baylor he served concomitantly as Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Chief Executive Officer for the medical school of Baylor University, and Director of the largest cardiovascular research and training center in the world. He is now President of Baylor College of Medicine, an independent medical school.

Dr. DeBakey is universally recognized as a pioneer in surgery of the heart and major blood vessels. As a medical student, he devised the roller-type pump (1934) which made possible open-heart surgery and renal dialysis; he pioneered the use of Dacron tubing for replacement of diseased blood vessels (1966), he devised operations for previously fatal aneurysms, and has devoted much time and effort to the development of an artificial heart. A scholar of wide range, he has written books on blood transfusion (1942), minor surgery (1955, 1959), cold injury (1958), and the surgical history of World War II (1954). In 1976, he published *The Living Heart*, a book about the heart, its function and care that the layman can understand.

Dr. DeBakey has served on numerous committees, councils, and editorial boards, and as consultant to many important national and international bodies, as well as to Presidents and other Heads of State throughout the world. He has been the recipient of many honorary degrees and other honors, including the Lasker Award (1963), the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1969), the Distinguished Service Award of the American Medical Association (1959) and of the International Society of Surgery (1958), the Gold Heart Award of the American Heart Association (1968), the Rudolph Matas Award in Vascular Surgery (1954), the Modern Medicine Award (1957), and Honorary Membership in the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences (1965). Dr. DeBakey's students and colleagues have also honored him by establishing the Michael E. DeBakey International Cardiovascular Society, and a new education building at Baylor will bear his name. In addition to his teaching, research, and clinical and administrative responsibilities, Dr. DeBakey is the Director of Baylor's famous Heart and Blood Vessel Research and Demonstration Center.

The author of "Science and Humanism" and "Medical Research and the Golden Rule", both published in 1968, Dr. DeBakey is uniquely fitted to be our 1978 Merrimon Lecturer.



THE MERRIMON LECTURESHIP IN MEDICINE

This Lectureship, which was established by the late Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry "in respect and honour of the Great Traditions of the Science and Practice of Medicine," was inaugurated in 1966. Dr. Perry's idea was that the lectures be open to all, but that they be concerned with "the Origins, Traditions and History of the Medical Profession and of that Ethical Philosophy which must dominate this Field of Human Endeavor." It was her intent that the Merrimon Lecturers be distinguished both for scientific or clinical skills and a notably humane attitude toward Medicine.

Previous Merrimon Lecturers

DR. NICHOLSON JOSEPH EASTMAN

DR. WILLIAM BOSWORTH CASTLE

DR. RENE JULES DUBOS

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PROF. SUNE BERGSTRÖM

C.P. SNOW

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DR. CHARLES A. JANEWAY

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