



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

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

DAVID C. SABISTON, JR., M.D.
JAMES B. DUKE PROFESSOR OF SURGERY AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

on

**“MEDICAL RESEARCH:
MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEDICAL STUDENTS”**

Wednesday, October 27, 1993
8:00 PM
Berryhill Hall
Carolina Campus

DAVID C. SABISTON, JR., was born in Onslow County, North Carolina, in 1924 and is the first North Carolinian to deliver the Merrimon Lecture. He is also the first graduate of the University of North Carolina to be chosen for this honor. He received the B.S. degree from UNC at the age of 19 in 1944 and his M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1947. Dr. Sabiston remained at Johns Hopkins after graduation from medical school and trained in surgery from 1947 through 1953, after which he joined the faculty and rose in rank to become Professor of Surgery in 1964.

In 1964 Dr. Sabiston was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Duke University, where he has remained, and is currently the James Buchanan Duke Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Sabiston has had a long and distinguished career in both investigative and clinical surgery. His research has focused on the coronary and pulmonary circulations where he has made numerous and highly significant contributions. One of his most notable achievements, out of many, was the first performance of a saphenous vein graft for coronary bypass of arterial obstruction in humans. Equally impressive was his participation in developing radioisotope scanning for the diagnosis of pulmonary embolism, a leading cause of death in patients over the age of 40. Dr. Sabiston has made numerous other contributions to the science of medicine and continues to do so to the present time.

In addition to a brilliant career as a researcher and clinician, Dr. Sabiston is known for an equally distinguished career as a teacher. One of his most important achievements has been his effectiveness as a teacher and role model for countless medical students. He has been selected on numerous occasions as the "best teacher" by medical students at Duke University which represents a legacy not likely to be matched in the foreseeable future.

In addition to his roles as a researcher, teacher, and clinician, Dr. Sabiston has found the time to serve as president of *all* the major academic surgical societies. He has also rendered valuable service to the National Institutes of Health as well as to numerous philanthropic organizations involved in medical education and the delivery of health care.

Dr. Sabiston has a reserve of energy that is legend among his students, residents, fellows, and colleagues. Not only has he accomplished all of the things outlined above, but at the same time he has directed a busy surgical service with personal input and performance that has inspired several generations of surgeons, many of whom have gone on to distinguished careers of their own.

Dr. Sabiston is, without doubt, one of the leading academic surgeons in the country today. His technical, research, and teaching accomplishments are complemented by a genuine understanding of and concern for the welfare of his patients. His compassion for the sick and underprivileged only adds to the respect and admiration he has generated over a lifetime of service to those in need of medical attention.

The Merrimon Committee is pleased that Dr. Sabiston has accepted our invitation to deliver the Merrimon Lecture entitled "Medical Research: Major Contributions by Medical Students." He joins a long list of distinguished speakers who have enhanced our concern, as physicians, for the condition of man, and this, after all, was the purpose behind the Merrimon endowment.



THE MERRIMON LECTURESHIP IN MEDICINE

This Lectureship, which was established by the late Dr. Louise Merrimon Perry, 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 intention 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

DR. JOHN HILTON KNOWLES

SIR PETER BRIAN MEDAWAR

PROF. SUNE BERGSTRÖM

C.P. SNOW

DR. KURT W. DEUSCHLE

DR. CHARLES A. JANEWAY

DR. MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY

DR. RENEE C. FOX

DR. KENNETH B. CLARK

DR. FREDERICK C. ROBBINS

DR. ARNOLD S. RELMAN

DR. D. CARLETON GAJDUSEK

DR. ROBERT J. GLASER

DR. DAVID A. HAMBURG

DR. JARED M. DIAMOND

DR. SAMUEL O. THIER

DR. JOHN R. EVANS

DR. M. JOYCELYN ELDERS

DR. C. THOMAS CASKEY

DR. JOHN A. KITZHABER