In Memoriam

Dr. V. Everett Kinsey
1909 - 1978

Edito's note: From time to time, INVESTIGATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY & VISUAL SCIENCE has a commemorative issue. During its existence as an independent journal INVESTIGATIVE OPHTHALMOLOGY has had only four such issues. Everett Kinsey was among the few to be so recognized. Surely this is one measure of the impact he had on vision research. In the commemorative issue of May, 1976, there appeared not only a brief biographical sketch by David Cogan but also tributes by Carl Kupfer, Director of the National Eye Institute, and by Herbert Kaufman, then Editor-in-Chief of the JOURNAL. Rereading these today, one cannot help but be impressed by the combination of scientific respect and personal affection they evidence. Nor is it possible to reread the brief outline of Everett Kinsey's contribution to our understanding of retrolental fibroplasia written by Arnall Patz without gaining a renewed sense of the range of Everett Kinsey's interests and the size of his accomplishment. Thus it is with a sad heart that the Editorial Board must this month publish his obituary. In this regard, it is fitting that the obituary be written by two of his closest colleagues and dearest friends—Venkat Reddy and David Cogan.

Dr. V. Everett Kinsey, Director Emeritus of the Institute of Biological Sciences at Oakland University, one of this century's distinguished figures in ophthalmic research, died July 23, 1978, in Harper Hospital, Detroit, Michigan, following a stroke suffered seven weeks earlier. The impact of this tragic event is deeply felt not only by his wife, Irene, and his many friends and close associates but also by clinicians and basic scientists in the field of ophthalmology throughout the world, for he was held in the highest esteem.

Dr. Kinsey, whose career in vision research spanned four decades, was internationally recognized for his many significant contributions in various aspects of vision research. An author of nearly 140 scientific papers, his work encompassed investigations on the mechanism of corneal transparency, aqueous humor formation and its abnormalities in glaucoma, the mechanism of cataract formation, and the role of oxygen as an etiological agent in retrolental fibroplasia.

After earlier studies on the permeability and turgid properties of the cornea in the 1940s, Dr. Kinsey turned his attention to the study of intraocular fluid dynamics. His extensive studies in this field are truly classic. The studies on the kinetics of transport of substances across blood-aqueous barriers and his searching analysis of the data have provided clues to the mechanism of aqueous se-
cretion. They also made possible the measurement of the rate of flow of aqueous humor and the deduction of the nature of the primary aqueous that is secreted into the posterior chamber.

His interest in retrolental fibroplasia dates back to 1942 when he became associated with Dr. Theodore Terry in Boston. Later, Dr. Kinsey headed the collaborative study on retrolental fibroplasia which established the role of oxygen in the pathophysiology of this disease. Dr. Kinsey was also a pioneer in the area of lens research. After developing a method for maintenance of a viable lens in vitro, he subjected the lens for the first time to a comprehensive study of biochemical requirements and demonstrated that the epithelium was responsible for the transport function in this organ. The interpretation of much of the research on transport of various substances into the lens has depended on quantitative relationships and mathematical expressions which he developed to describe the lens as a "pump-leak model." His unique ability to focus attention on a number of areas simultaneously, combined with his boundless energy and infectious enthusiasm, were responsible for a number of collaborative research efforts. The co-authorship of his publications arising from such efforts reflect the large number of distinguished investigators with whom he interacted.

Recognition of his research accomplishments came with the receipt of many awards including the Warren Triennial Prize, the Proctor Medal of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology, the Modern Medicine Award, a citation from the International Society for Eye Research, and the prestigious Lasker Award.

In addition to his devotion to vision research, Dr. Kinsey served as a member and officer of numerous national organizations. His services at the national level included Chairmanship of the Association for Research in Ophthalmology and of the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Foundation For Eye Research and membership on many other important organizations and committees including Fight for Sight, National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, and the Advisory Councils of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness and the National Eye Institute. He was also the first chairman of the National Eye Institute Board of Scientific Counselors.

An alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh where he received his bachelor's and Ph.D. degrees, Dr. Kinsey entered the field of ophthalmology in 1937. He was a member of the Howe Laboratory of Ophthalmology at the Harvard Medical School from 1940 to 1950 before going to the Kresge Eye Institute in 1950 as the Assistant Director of Research and Professor of Ophthalmic Eye Institute. In 1968, Dr. Kinsey went to Oakland University to organize a new eye research facility, the Institute of Biological Sciences, and became its first Director. The Organization of this Institute in a way culminated his longespoused philosophy of how fundamental research in a clinical specialty should be supported and encouraged. Some of the ideas which he put forth in an article published thirty years ago (Science 105:373, 1947) are reflected in the planning of this Institute and its funding mechanism. Under his leadership, the Institute quickly gained national and international prominence as an important center for eye research. Even after he became Director Emeritus in 1975, he continued to be vigorous in his research and was energetically involved in the laboratory until the day he went to the hospital for the diagnostic test.

Dr. Kinsey was a true pioneer who set an example for other basic scientists to emulate and make a career in a clinical discipline. An inspiring leader of investigators in his own department, he was also a valuable leader in national affairs. The passing of Everett Kinsey represents the end of an era; he will be sorely missed by his many colleagues and friends throughout the world.

Venkat N. Reddy
David Cogan