IN MEMORIAM

The legacy of George F. Stevenson, MD, is the long-term leadership that shaped the ASCP and influenced many careers.

Stevenson, who died May 24 at the age of 71, was instrumental in the ASCP’s governance, publishing, and continuing education activities.

Stevenson began his association with the ASCP in the 1950s. From 1967 to 1972, he was commissioner of Continuing Education, developing programs for pathologists. From 1974 until his retirement in September 1992, he held a number of staff positions, leading to senior vice president for Educational Activities Planning/scientific director. Stevenson’s most recent post with the ASCP was senior consultant to Educational Activities Planning. He was a professor of pathology at Northwestern University Medical School as well.

Stevenson has been credited with the success of the ASCP’s continuing education activities for pathologists and medical technologists. He formalized the workshop programs, Check Sample, and the Commission on Continuing Education (CCE). He helped to establish the CCE councils that plan regional education courses and cosponsor teleconference programs with the Associate Member Section. He also was instrumental in establishing ASCP Press operations.

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because of him. When he came to Charleston, I was new, so he approached me to try new ways of doing things. I said, ‘Sure, I'll try.’”

Stevenson was instrumental in transforming the college to the Medical University of South Carolina, and starting laboratory medicine programs.

“He sent me to the University of Alabama in Birmingham for graduate coursework so I could reach hematology at the medical university. He was a great one for education,” Ioannidis said.

“In working the national meetings, I met people I had only read about in books,” Ioannidis said. Her involvement continued as she branched out to serve on various committees and boards, write exam questions on hematology, and give workshops.

Anne Thompson, MT(ASCP)SH, also met Stevenson at the Medical University of South Carolina in the late 1960s.

“It's because of Dr Stevenson that I am a medical technologist today,” said Thompson. “I got to know him and he really encouraged me to go to medical technology school. He not only encouraged me; he was insistent. It changed my life.”

She began working as a staff assistant and teaching at ASCP workshops. She held positions with the ASCP Board of Registry, including board of governors chair, and coauthored the laboratory learning aid series.

“He had a way of making you believe in yourself,” Thompson said. “Through him, I met interesting, fascinating people in laboratory medicine, like Israel Davidsohn, MD—people I had only studied.”

Carol Sheehan, MT(ASCP), also met Stevenson at the Medical College of South Carolina. She too was encouraged by Stevenson to attend national meetings. “That was a great experience both educationally and professionally,” she said. “I traveled to many cities, took many programs, and met other pathologists. It was helpful in job finding.”

Stevenson received a BA and an MD from the University of Western Ontario. He completed an internship at Civic Hospital in Ottawa, Canada; and residencies in surgery at St. Joseph Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and pathology at St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne, Ind. He completed fellowships in pathology at the Cleveland Clinic, and Wesley Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

His numerous awards and honors include the ASCP Award for Distinguished Service to Continuing Medical Education in 1976 and the ASCP Ward Burdick Award in 1984.

Stevenson is survived by his wife, Joanne, and sons Mark and Scot. Memorial services will be held in Chicago on September 10, 1994, and in Washington, DC, during the ASCP/CAP Fall Meeting. Contributions may be sent to the George F. Stevenson Memorial Fund, now established at the ASCP.

—Terri Yablonsky, features editor for Laboratory Medicine.
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