EUGENE B. FERRIS, M.D., 1905–1957

With a sense of irreparable loss and deepest sorrow, the American Heart Association records the sudden and untimely death of its Medical Director, Dr. Eugene B. Ferris, on September 26. Dr. Ferris was stricken by a heart attack as he worked at his desk. He was 52 years old.

During a distinguished career of 27 years, Dr. Ferris' outstanding accomplishments in scientific research, medical education and medical practice had won him wide renown. Before taking up his duties at the Association on February 1, Dr. Ferris was Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga.

Active in Heart Association affairs for many years, he was elected a Vice President of the national Association in 1955, a post he relinquished on his appointment as Medical Director.

He earlier served as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board of the Association’s High Blood Pressure Research Council and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Association’s Scientific Council. He had also been prominently associated with the Cincinnati and the Georgia Heart Associations.

From 1946–1952, Dr. Ferris was successively Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associated and full Professor at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Department of Medicine, where he was also active as Director of the Commonwealth Fund Psychosomatic Teaching Project.

During World War II, Dr. Ferris' research interest centered around aviation medicine. He directed a pioneer study of the effects of high altitude on humans, using himself and student volunteers as subjects.

His clinical activities in Atlanta included service as Chief, Medical Service, Grady Memorial and Emory University Hospitals and as consultant and member, Dean’s Committee, Atlanta Veterans Hospital. While in Cincinnati, Dr. Ferris was a member of the Directing Staff, Cincinnati General and Holmes Hospitals, and also of the Visiting Staff, Bethesda Hospital.

Dr. Ferris was born in McNeill, Mississippi on June 24th, 1905. He was a graduate of the Mississippi State College and received his medical degree at the University of Virginia.

Formerly editor of the Cincinnati Journal of Medicine, Dr. Ferris became editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Clinical Investigation in 1948. Dr. Ferris was a former President of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and former President of the American Psychosomatic Society. He was a member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians and a member of the Association of American Physicians and the American Clinical and Climatological Society.

Dr. Ferris was a member of the Cardiovascular Study Section, United States Public Health Service, and served as Consultant to the Surgeon General, United States Army, from 1949–53. He was actively engaged in basic and clinical medical research throughout his career and published many scientific papers concerned particularly with the heart and blood vessels, heat regulation of the body, aviation medicine and physiology, and pulmonary physiology.
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