



Pioneers of Neuroscience in Central Ohio

By George W. Paulson, MD

In the mid-twentieth century there were only a handful of physicians trained in neuroscience to care for the residents of Central Ohio. Today, clinical neuroscience in Central Ohio includes over a hundred neurologists, neurosurgeons and psychiatrists. Neuroscience has become accepted and successful, in large measure due to the leadership of a relative few.

One neuroscientist who contributed to the development of neuroscience in Central Ohio was Dwight M. Palmer, MD. A straight-A student, Palmer attended both undergraduate and medical school at The Ohio State University, and took additional training in neuroanatomy and pathology. Author of the only official textbook of neuroanatomy ever to originate from The Ohio State University, Palmer published scientific articles in all of the standard American neurologic and psychiatric journals of his day. Firm in his teaching, "If anyone breaks one of these serial brain slides he might as well drop the course," his former students remember him better as a gentleman's gentleman who was scholarly yet soft-spoken and kind to the patients he regularly used for teaching by the bedside and in the clinic. Voted "Man of the Year" for the class of 1947, Palmer served as chairman of Psychiatry and Neurology and administrative chief of Neurosurgery at The Ohio



Dwight M. Palmer, MD

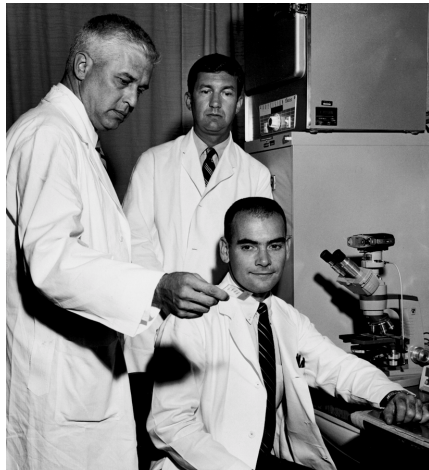
State University from 1945–1951. Palmer set much of the educational tone in clinical neuroscience. He facilitated the recruitment of J. Norman Allen, MD who further extended the development of neurology as a distinct discipline and eventually as a separate department.

Harry E. LeFever, MD was the founder and mentor for neurosurgery in Central Ohio. Trained at Ohio University and Jefferson Medical College, LeFever received his medical degree in 1925, studied with Dr. Harvey Cushing in Boston and with Dr. Thierry de Martel and Dr. Clovis Vincent in France. After 1932 LeFever limited his practice to neurosurgery, which was unusual for the time. By 1937, Dr. LeFever had established a residency in neurosurgery at White Cross Hospital but left to serve in the military as Lt. Commander in WWII. During the 1950s he was joined by three greats of local, and later national, fame in neurosurgery: William E. Hunt, MD, John N. Meagher, MD, and Martin P. Sayers, MD. A disease (Tolosa-Hunt) and classification scale (the Hunt-Hess scale for aneurysms) were named for Hunt, who became chief of the Division of Neurosurgery at OSU Hospitals in 1963. He was also internationally known for his work in cerebral vasculature and in spinal cord injury. Meagher was a director of neurosurgery at Riverside Hospital and the neuroscience intensive care

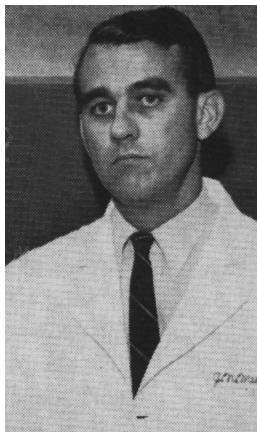


Harry E. LeFever, MD

unit there is now dedicated to him. Sayers was the first pediatric neurosurgeon in Central Ohio and preeminent in his field. Hunt, Meagher, and Sayers attributed much of their interest in neurosurgery to their experiences with Dr. LeFever. The transmission of excellence in neurosurgery continued long past Dr. LeFever since at least 20 neurosurgeons were directly inspired by him, including Charles Rossel, whom some residents said was

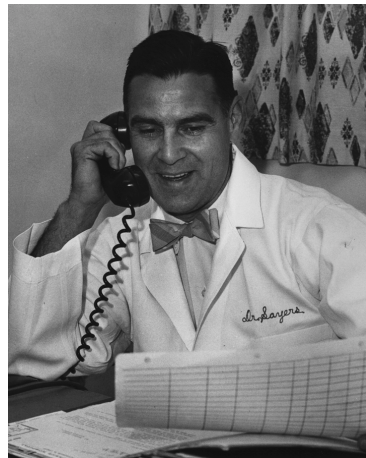


L to R: William Hunt, MD; James E. Barnes, MD; Joel White, MD



John N. Meagher, MD

technically unmatched by anyone and James E. Barnes who was, as were LeFever and Meagher, president of the Columbus Academy of Medicine and an active contributor to both the community and Riverside Hospital. LeFever was described by one of his protégés, Robert M. Hess, as gracious, witty, urban, and fluent in French. With his



Martin P. Sayers, MD

bow tie and lapel pocket handkerchief, our first neurosurgeon had savoir-faire and it was said he could cure patients by his manner alone. As Hess said in 1997, "Although 36 years have past since his death, I remember him with admiration and respect."

Psychiatry, so crucial for decades for the teaching of clinical neuroscience in Columbus has been

assaulted by economic pressures. The Harding Hospital for psychiatric illness, a beacon for enlightened care, has closed but the facility on "the hilltop," now called Twin Valley Behavioral Health Care, currently delivers superb care with the most able staff in years.

The study and practice of neuroscience has come a long way over the last 70 years. New diagnostic tools, particularly MRI, have furthered our knowledge and controlled studies have showered us with effective new therapies. The future of neuroscience research at OSU has now been secured by a multi-million dollar endowment funded by Dr. Hunt and Charlotte Curtis Hunt, and established by his former colleague and wife, neurosurgeon Carole Miller. The pioneers of this field, such as Dr. Palmer and Dr. LeFever, have left a lasting legacy of knowledge and research which assure a strong and progressive tomorrow for neuroscience in Central Ohio.

Recent Donations

The Medical Heritage Center thanks those listed for their recent support.

Evelyn S. Baker : *The Fourth Horseman* (Nourse) ● Dr. John C. Burnham : *Health and History* (journal); *Medicine nei Secoli* (journal); *Vesalius* (journal); *Historical Aspects of Unconventional Medicine* (Jutte) ● Sheldon Cohen, MD : *Columbus and the New World: Medical Implications* (Settipane) ● Dr. Ronald St. Pierre : book collection ● Albert W. Van Fossen, MD : *Thyroid and Thymus* (Crotti) ● Rosa Lee Weinert, RN : nursing texts

Monetary Donations:

Edwin and Nancy Hamilton MD : in memory of Noel Hamilton

Charles H. Hamilton, MD : in memory of J. P. Smith, MD

Drs. George and Ruth Paulson : in memory of Lois Sotos

Tea planned to honor nurses at the Medical Heritage Center

On Thursday, May 9, 2002, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. all Central Ohio nurses and friends of nursing are invited to a tea in the Medical Heritage Center to become acquainted with the nursing history project underway at the Center. Barbara Van Brimmer, Curator of the Center will welcome guests, with further remarks offered by Jeanne Clement, Associate Professor of The Ohio State University College of Nursing and by Carol Robinson, nursing history project coordinator. Nursing collections will be displayed, including the nursing stamp collection of Mildred Newton, former Director of the College of Nursing. The four albums in the Newton collection contain several hundred stamps of historical significance which have been preserved by the Center in acid-free albums. These stamps depict nursing history, medical achievements, and Red Cross programs throughout the world. An early edition of Florence Nightingale's Notes on Nursing as well as other

texts from the nursing archives will also be displayed.

The history of nursing in Central Ohio spans over 100 years of nursing education, practice and public service. The Medical Heritage Center nursing history project is an effort to collect and preserve this heritage. The tea on May 9th will give nurses and friends of nursing the opportunity to learn about the project and the Center's nursing collection. **Please RSVP to Barbara Van Brimmer** at the Medical Heritage Center (614-292-4891 or vanbrimmer.2@osu.edu) by May 3, 2002; there is no fee to attend this event.

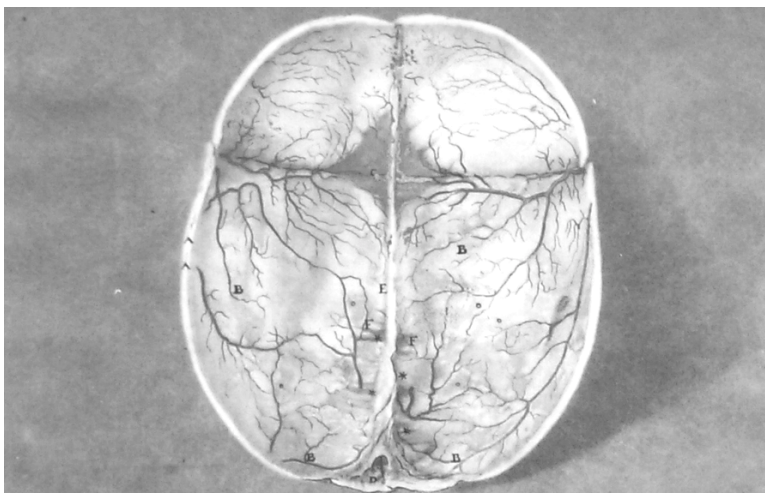
Calendar Change

The lecture to be presented by M. Therese Southgate, MD, Senior Contributing Editor of JAMA, has been postponed until 2003.

Art of Neuroscience: Image and Understanding, 1515-2000

The Medical Heritage Center of the Prior Health Sciences Library is sponsoring a unique exhibit titled *Art of Neuroscience: Image and Understanding, 1518-2000*. This display will be available February 1–June 1, 2002, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday on the fifth floor of the library. The collection of images from the 1500s to the present reveal the advancement of neuroscience through line drawings, often done by unidentified artists, to later images which range from the details of the nerve synapse to what Dr. Marcus Raichle has called “images of the mind” shown in his PET scan. His work demonstrates a visual image of thought. Each piece in the exhibit has a note of explanation, but your own perception will note additional aspects.

The exhibit was made possible by a generous gift to the National Academy of Sciences from Mrs. Arthur M. Sackler in memory of her husband and is on loan to the OSU Medical Heritage Center. For more information contact Barbara Van Brimmer, Medical Heritage Center Curator, (614) 292-4891 or vanbrimmer.2@osu.edu



Icon Durae Matris in Concava Superficie ... (Image of the Dura Mater, concave surfaces), Amsterdam and Leiden, 1738. By Frederick Ruysch. Illustrated by Johannes (Jan) Ladmiral.



**5th Floor
Prior Health Sciences Library
376 W. 10th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210**

Editor-in-Chief: Barbara Van Brimmer
Production Editor: Jane Witherspoon
e-mail: medhist@osu.edu
telephone: 614.292.4891
fax: 614.292.9919
<http://bones.med.ohio-state.edu/heritage>

©2002, Medical Heritage Center
All rights reserved.
Reprints with permission.

GREAT NEWS!

The Columbus Medical Association Foundation awarded a grant to Barbara Van Brimmer and Dr. Charles Wooley to produce a book titled, "Health Care and Medical Education come to Columbus and Franklin County." This book will define the origins of the remarkable individuals who came to Central Ohio and transformed a frontier health environment into the health care and medical education systems that are a source of pride in the region at present.

This is the first research grant awarded to the Medical Heritage Center and marks the beginning of sponsored research in the history of medicine in the Central Ohio Community and at The Ohio State University. The initial award of \$46,240 has been received, with the remaining \$20,000 to be paid as part of a \$1 to \$1 challenge grant. For each new dollar contributed to the Medical Heritage Fund of the Columbus Medical Association Foundation (CMAF), the Foundation will match that amount up to the remaining \$20,000 needed to support the publication of the book. This is a unique "win-win" situation for the Medical Heritage Center since the Medical Heritage Fund is an endowment for the Center's use.

We are seeking your support to bring this important project to fruition. If you would be willing to make a donation, please indicate in a letter and/or on the check that the donation is for the **Medical Heritage Center Fund**. Checks are to be made to the *Columbus Medical Association Foundation* and mailed to:

The Columbus Medical Association Foundation
Attn: Weldon Milbourne
431 East Broad Street, Suite 300
Columbus OH 43216.

If you have any questions contact: Barbara Van Brimmer at 292-4891 or vanbrimmer.2@osu.edu . You can also contact Weldon Milbourne at 240-7420 ext. 120 or wmilbourn@cmaf-ohio.org.