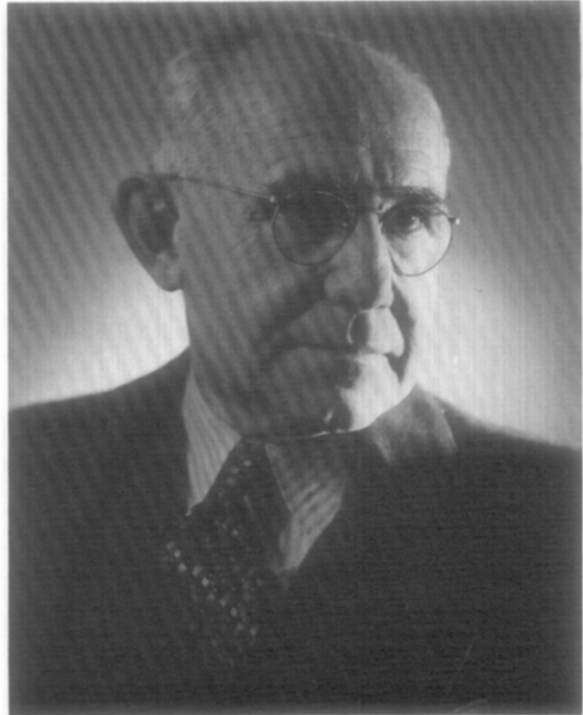


In memoriam

Joseph Harkavy (1890-1980)

Joseph Harkavy, M.D., died on December 12, 1980, at the age of 90. He had just returned from his office, where he had been caring for his patients with the same concern and intense intellectual curiosity about their problems that he had developed as a medical student at Cornell University Medical College, from which he was graduated in 1914, and during his internship at The New York Hospital. After his internship, he moved to the Mt. Sinai Hospital, and entered into private practice in 1917, becoming increasingly interested in clinical investigation, and showed such promise that the legendary Dr. Emanuel Libman persuaded one of his affluent patients to contribute \$5,000 to enable this young man to study in Europe. Dr. Harkavy spent 1924 and 1925 working in England, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Holland. During this time he spent several months with the great German pathologist, Aschoff, who was Virchow's most illustrious pupil, and with the brilliant English physiologist, Barcroft. On returning to New York, Dr. Harkavy resumed his relationship with the Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he ultimately became Physician and Chief of the Allergy Service, serving with distinction until he became Emeritus Professor at the compulsory retirement age of 65. In addition to his position at the Mt. Sinai Hospital, he was also head of the Allergy Service at Montefiore Hospital in New York.

Throughout the years, Joe had an active practice and gained the respect and affection of his patients. One of the qualities that they most admired about him was that he learned from them as he treated them. His 63 publications spanned 52 years, and covered a wide variety of problems. He was the first to find the presence of a slow-reacting, spasm-producing substance in the sputa of patients with bronchial asthma, and reported this in a paper first presented at the meeting of the Society of Experimental Biology and Medicine in New York City in 1925. Following his work on phlebitis and thrombophlebitis migrans, on which he published in 1924, he became interested in tobacco sensitivity. In the last months of his life, he was working with Dr. Carl Becker at Cornell University Medical College on the allergenicity of tobacco extract, regularly carrying sera of his tobacco-sensitive pa-



Joseph Harkavy

tients from his office to Dr. Becker's laboratory for study. He was extremely interested in vascular reactions due to allergic mechanisms, and published the first papers on the syndrome of asthma, recurrent eosinophilic pulmonary infiltration, blood eosinophilia, and polyserositis, sometimes referred to as the Harkavy syndrome. The culmination of his work on vascular allergies was his book, "Vascular Allergy and its Systemic Manifestations," published in 1963.

Dr. Harkavy was a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and belonged to many societies, including the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, the Society for Investigative Dermatology, the New York Academy of Sciences, and the New York Academy of Medicine. He was an honorary member of the Allergy Society of Spain, of Argentina, and of Brazil. He was past president of the New York Allergy Society and past vice-president of the American Academy of Allergy.

Joe will be remembered and sorely missed by his colleagues and friends in the New York area, as well

as by those who looked forward to his unfailing attendance at the annual meetings of the Academy. Those of us who came to know him recognized that beneath a stern and uncompromising facade was a man of integrity and devotion to what he saw to be the best for his patients. He was also a very kind, courteous, and courtly man, whose office nurse had been with

him for fifty years. His life spanned a truly golden age in medicine. Those of us who were privileged to have known him well and to have heard him reminisce at length about those days have had the unique experience of having been in the living presence of a part of medical history.

Murray Dworetzky, M.D.