EDITORIAL

A Tribute to Jack R. Anderson, MD

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It is fortunate for all of us in otolaryngology—and especially important for our patients—that the good Lord blessed us with Jack Anderson.

I met Jack when I was a resident and he was in his second year of practice in New Orleans in the office of Dr. Lucian Alexander. My first medical exposure to Jack was in August 1949, when he gave a lecture to the residents addressing the subject of the autonomic nervous system. I listened, almost in a trance, fascinated by the science that flowed from this young man’s mouth. I realized then that here was an otolaryngologist who was a real thinker, not just the usual medicine dispenser, sinus washer, incise-the-abscess kind of guy. The autonomic nervous system was, of course, a system that was not very well understood at that time, but a system that controlled many functions of the body, including the ear, nose, and throat. With that one lecture he opened a whole new world of medicine to me. Here was not only a thinking man, but one who was going places and who could help me expand my vistas in otolaryngology.

From the time of the autonomic nervous system lecture, Jack and I began to have a certain amount of dialogue. We did not become personal friends at that time, but we began to talk about science and patient care. One day, in my second year of residency (1950), Jack came up to me and said, “Wally, let’s start an allergy clinic at the ENT hospital.” I said, “Jack, you’re out of your mind. I don’t know anything about allergy.” Jack, in his inimitable way, said, “Don’t worry about it. I took a course last week up in St. Louis with a man named French Hansel, and I will teach you what I learned.” So, guess what? Jack and I started an allergy clinic. This was an innovative, trail-blazing concept for
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otolaryngology in general, and in New Orleans in particular.

As a result of this closer association, the relationship with Jack became more personal. About four weeks before the end of my residency, Jack suggested, “Why don’t you stay in New Orleans, and you and I will practice together.” As I had not made any plans—and in those days you didn’t need to make practice plans in advance of completing your residency—I said, “Sure, I’ll stay in New Orleans and practice with you.”

After the decision to stay in New Orleans was made, Jack and I opened our offices in a less-than-adequate physical environment. Jack and I made arrangements to share office space with Dr. Theo Beatrice. Dr. Beatrice had very small offices in the Richards Building. Into this monumental-sized office came Jack Anderson and Wally Rubin. The office was 600 square feet, had three inadequate examining rooms, one minuscule waiting room, and an almost visible business office.

Jack and I started practice in this situation, but, of course, we did not last long. We did what you were not supposed to do in New Orleans—we took a big step. We rented most of one floor in the old Baronne Building. We then renovated the offices and created what looked like munificent office space with wall hangings, pictures, music, and, even more important, lots of space. This, of course, instigated some talk about Jack and me. People said, “Watch those guys; they are going to cause trouble. They’re pushers and trouble makers.” Of course, they were right.

Jack Anderson’s influence can be documented in other ways:

The autonomic nervous system lecture that Jack gave when I was a resident opened the scientific vistas of medicine and otolaryngology to me and confirmed that there were people who were scientists in addition to being practitioners and surgeons.

Jack’s suggestion and insistence that we start the allergy clinic at the ENT hospital whet my appetite for new vistas and new areas of otolaryngologic competence. This has led to some other areas of interest and culminated in present day involvement with allergy and immunology.

Practicing with Jack stimulated my interest in clinical research projects. He got me involved in doing clinical drug studies, not for economic reasons but for the purpose of learning how to better treat our patients. This ultimately involved me in the neurotologic domain. It also stimulated my interest in going back to school at Tulane in 1958 and getting involved with the Department of Pharmacology and pursuing PhD training.

Jack was a real pusher in terms of getting me involved in writing. Early on, in 1951, he said, “Wally, you’ve got to write a paper and give a talk. Start out at the Orleans Parish Medical Society.” This I did and gave a talk on the subject of “Allergy, Sinus, and Headaches in Relations to Otolaryngology.”

There have been many other involvements with Jack Anderson that have influenced all of us and all of our careers. I would like to list some of these:

1. His involvement in cosmetic surgery and its place in otolaryngology is well known to all. He was not the first, but he was the innovator. He was the prime mover.
2. He started the publication of the International Collected Letters. The vision and foresight he had in this area was far ahead of its time. Its value in medicine and otolaryngology, in particular, has been significant.
3. Jack was very interested in socioeconomic and political affairs. He was a prime mover and helped to found the American Council of Otolaryngology. He brought us in contact with concepts and people we otherwise would never have known or met.
4. Jack’s continual striving to have young people in the field get involved in the science and the art of medicine is well known. This exposure helped create and support the acquisition of knowledge and expertise for a whole generation of physicians and surgeons. Some of this would never have occurred without Jack Anderson.

To have been exposed and involved with this wonderful, caring man is a privilege and an honor. He has truly been an “Otolaryngology Giant” and mentor to all of us.
held July 26-30, 1993, at the Tamarron Resort in Durango, Colorado.

This 28 hour review and update will encompass all the clinically important areas of MR imaging. Important new concepts and pathological/imaging correlations in the body, musculoskeletal system, ENT, head and neck, brain, and spine will be explored. Daily case presentations will supplement these lectures and will serve to test the registrants’ diagnostic abilities in MR imaging.

This complete review of MR imaging will be presented by nationally recognized leaders in magnetic resonance imaging. As a result of this comprehensive review, registrants will become familiar with current applications of MR imaging and will be able to integrate many of these applications directly into their practice.

Program chairmen for this presentation will be Robert Quencer, MD (University of Miami), Victor Haughton, MD (Medical College of Wisconsin). Twenty-eight credits of Category I will be available.

For further information, please contact Marti Carter, CME, Inc., 11011 West Nort Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53226, or call (414) 771-9520.

**Ear, Nose, and Throat Diseases: 1993 Update**

Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh will hold its 18th Annual Symposium, “Ear, Nose, and Throat Diseases in Children: A 1993 Update.” This symposium will be held July 30-31, 1993. CME credits will be awarded.

For further information, please contact the Department of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, 3705 Fifth Avenue at DeSoto St., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213, or call (412) 692-8577.

**Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting—Head and Neck Oncologists**

The Association of Head and Neck Oncologists of Great Britain will sponsor the Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of Head and Neck Oncology, to be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, on August 23-26, 1993.

International and local faculty will present extensive social and family programs.

For further information, please contact Mr. P. J. Bradley, Honorary Secretary, Department of Otorhinolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, University Hospital, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, NG7 2UH, England, or phone 0602 421421.

**Sixth International Congress on Interventional Ultrasound**

The Sixth International Congress on Interventional Ultrasound will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 7-10, 1993.

For further information, please contact Christian Nolsoe, Congress Secretary, Department of Ultrasound, Herlev Hospital, University of Copenhagen, DK-2730 Herlev-Denmark, or call +45/44535300 ext. 3240.

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**CORRECTION**

The Supplement to the December 1992 issue of the *Journal* (Volume 107, Number 6, Part 2), incorrectly listed Dr. Bruce R. Gordon as Chief of Otolaryngology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Institute. Dr. Joseph Nadol is Chief of Otolaryngology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Gordon is Chief of Otolaryngology at Cape Cod Hospital.