Editorial

IN MEMORIAM: DR. KEITH LEON MOORE, BA, MSC, PHD, HON.
D.SC (OSU), HON. D.SC (WU), FIAC, FRSM, FAAA
October 5, 1925 – November 25, 2019

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One of the most world-renown anatomists of our time, Dr. Keith Leon Moore, passed away recently at age 94 on November 25, 2019. Dr. Moore was born in Brantford, Ontario, Canada on October 5, 1925. His father was a Presbyterian Minister and his mother was an Associate of the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Keith joined the Canadian Navy during World War II. He was a Sick Birth Attendant on Vancouver Island, and was trained as a Radiology Technician. In 1945 he served on a Castle Class Corvette ship which sailed along Canada’s West Coast looking for Japanese U-boats. When the war was over, he went to the Western University, where he received his BA, M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. Keith married Marion McDermid in 1949. After receiving his doctorate, Keith continued his research on the morphology of nerve cell nuclei with reference to the sex chromatin. He developed an oral mucosal smear test that is used for the detection of sex in persons who have ambiguous external genitalia. He published over 60 papers based on his research, mainly in embryology and teratology (birth defects), and anatomical education. In 1956 he accepted the position of Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba and became Head of Anatomy in 1965. In 1976 he accepted the position of Chair of Anatomy at University of Toronto and was promoted to Associate Dean of the Basic Medical Sciences in 1985.

Keith has had a significant impact on anatomical medical education, not only at a national, but at an international level. Dr. Moore authored or co-
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authored 9 anatomy textbooks, most of which have evolved through many editions and have been translated into multiple languages, and continue to be utilized around the world, including The Developing Human, Before We Are Born, Clinically Oriented Anatomy, and Essential Clinical Anatomy. He retired in 1991, but remained active in updating his books, attending anatomy meetings, and giving lectures worldwide. Keith has received the highest awards for excellence in human anatomy education at the medical, dental, graduate, and undergraduate levels. For his remarkable record of textbook publications in clinically oriented anatomy and embryology, he has been recognized worldwide. The Canadian Association of Anatomists presented him the J. C. B. Grant Award in 1984. Keith was the recipient of the inaugural Henry Gray/Elsevier Distinguished Educator Award in 2007 from the American Association of Anatomists. Also, he was a Founding Member of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA) and held the offices of Vice President (1986-7), President Elect (1987-9), President (1989-91), and Past President (1991-3). Keith served on the Editorial Board of the AACA journal, Clinical Anatomy, from its beginning in 1988 through 2012. The AACA recognized and awarded him with Honored Membership in 1994, and the Benton Adkins Jr. Distinguished Service Award in 2012. He served as a member of the Federative International Committee on Anatomical Terminology for 20 years. Keith was the recipient of two Honorary Doctorate of Science Degrees: the first from The Ohio State University in 2012 and the second from Western University in 2015. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (FRSM), Fellow of the International Academy of Cytology (FIAC), and Fellow of the American Association of Anatomists (FAAA). He received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

Keith was predeceased by his wife of 57 years Marion and son Warren. And will be fondly remembered by his four daughters, their spouses and nine grandchildren. In person and via his many textbooks, Keith had - -and will continue to have -- an impact on the education of hundreds of thousands of currently training, practicing, and future health care professionals around the world. Dr. Keith Leon Moore was truly an “Anatomy Legend” and will be missed by all.
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Keith with family

Keith with students

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