



Charles H. Hendricks, MD
October 23, 2010

Charles Henning Hendricks died on October 23, 2010 at his home in Chapel Hill, NC, of natural causes. He was born at Traverse City, MI on October 26, 1917 to the late Henning V. and Jennie Burnett Hendricks. He received his A.B. and M.D. degrees from University of Michigan and then trained in Obstetrics and Gynecology at both Michigan and The Ohio State University. He was a member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and served for some years as an examiner. In 1957, he moved to Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH (now Case Western University). That same year he served as a Macy Fellow in the Seccion Fisiologica Obstetrica at the University of Uruguay in Montevideo, Uruguay. He relocated to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) in 1968 as professor and Chairman of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Dr. Hendricks was a humanitarian and a visionary. He encouraged mavericks. Under his guidance, a number of residents became double-boarded in obstetrics and gynecology and in anesthesiology, internal medicine, or preventive medicine. He appointed the first woman resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UNC and recruited the department's first minority faculty. In 1970, he initiated the first Western Hemisphere regimen for injecting prostaglandin for early medical abortion at UNC, and served for seven years on the Prostaglandin Task Force of the World Health Organization.

Dr. Hendricks brought many clinical scientists to UNC as postdoctoral students and fellows from afar, including Uruguay, Paraguay, Scotland, England, Canada, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Austria and Japan. In 1980 he was named doctor *honoris causis* at the University of Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay. He established a "Clerks Abroad" program which, over a 20-year period, sent hundreds of UNC medical students abroad for obstetrics and gynecology clerkships. The department also participated for several years in one phase of the "Ship Hope" activities at The University of the West Indies, in Kingston, Jamaica, with these activities staffed by visiting UNC teaching staff and residents.

He belonged to the following organizations: The American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The American Association of Obstetricians And Gynecologists, American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society (serving as vice president in 1976), The Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Cleveland Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology (serving as president in 1966), and Society for Gynecological Investigation (serving as president in 1969). Dr. Hendricks was also awarded honorary membership in a number of professional organizations, including Paraguaya de Ginecologia y Obstetricia, Sociedad Ginecologica del Uruguay, Biological Society of Montevideo, and Fellowship ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and others. He retired as the Robert A. Ross Distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology *emeritus* in December, 1988.

Dr. Hendricks was a great man, and his influence on his students, residents, fellows and patients has been profound.

Submitted by Charles J. Lockwood, MD