

Dr. Dean A. Emanuel

This week we are happy to name Dr. Dean A. Emanuel as the 143rd inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Dr. Emanuel was nominated by Shirley Mook

Dr. Dean A. Emanuel, a longtime Marshfield Clinic cardiologist and world-renowned researcher, spent his career focused on patients' well-being and sought to cure ailments that afflicted farmers in Wisconsin's rural communities. Emanuel's efforts, along with those of Clinic leaders at the time, led to creation of Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation (MCRF) in 1959, and in 1981 the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC), which continue to save lives and prevent injuries by their research and education.



Emanuel was born March 9, 1923, in Augusta, and after graduating from high school there, attended Ripon College, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1944. Then attending the University of Wisconsin Medical School, he received his medical degree in 1947.

He interned at the Kansas City General Hospital and spent a year as a surgical resident at Luther Hospital in Eau Claire. His residency was interrupted when he became ill with pulmonary tuberculosis and spent the next three years in a sanatorium, bed-ridden half the time. When he regained his health, he completed a residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin Hospital from 1953-1956, during which time he was also associated with the cardiovascular laboratory. From 1956 to 1958 he was a major in the Army Medical Corps at Fort Knox, where he oversaw a research laboratory.

In July 1958, Emanuel joined the Marshfield Clinic where he became the Clinic's first invasive cardiologist, performing the first cardiac catheterization here that August. A leader in the field of cardiology, he was one of the first cardiologists in the United States to perform a diagnostic procedure called coronary arteriography and pioneered the Dotter Procedure, a precursor of angioplasty, as a method of improving circulation to diseased limbs before grafting surgery.

With an interest in research Dr. Emanuel joined Dr. Stephan Epstein and others to champion the creation of the Marshfield Clinic Foundation for Medical Research and Education. It received its charter in September 1959.

A year later he applied for and received his first National Institute of Health grant to study Farmer's Lung Disease. The award amounted to \$10,000 for the first year of a five-year

program involving an experimental investigation of the disease. The total grant over the five-year period amounted to \$41,000. Emanuel, and collaborators, Frederick "Fritz" Wenzel and Dr. Ben Lawton, were the first to prove the cause of Farmer's Lung.

As that study was continuing, Emanuel was called upon to diagnose an ailment from which mill workers were suffering. He noted a resemblance between the malady and Farmer's Lung but found that the mill workers were afflicted by Maple Bark Disease. The illness was first described by a Michigan doctor in 1932 and caused by a mold growing under the bark of hard maple logs.

In 1962, Emanuel and long-time colleague, Fritz Wenzel, published a report on Maple Bark Disease - a fungal disease-causing sooty bark in Maple and Sycamore trees and stacked logs, but in humans, causing debilitating inflammation of the lungs -- particularly affecting workers in the paper industry. Through their research efforts they were able to establish the course of the illness, recommend treatment and set up a preventive program. As a result, those afflicted with the disease returned to productive work, and others exposed to the hazard were protected from the ailment.

Wenzel describing their work said. "We crawled through silos, haylofts and paper mills together as we studied these lung diseases and through it all, Dr. Emanuel's focus was on patients." He always said, "We're doing this to make discoveries that will help patients."

Emanuel was instrumental in the development of the National Farm Medicine Center in 1981. Then the next year, along with WDLB Radio's Les Leonard, Jack Hackman, and Bill Allen, he started the Auction of Champions. The annual gala that has raised well over \$5 million since its inception in 1982 to support the National Farm Medicine Center, a program of Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation. It has expanded to provide a vast number of agricultural related issues including preventing injuries and fatalities, farm microbiome, and children's safety to name only a few. He also established the Emanuel Chair for the study of agricultural diseases and their effects on the farming population

Dr. Emanuel received many accolades for his work and research including: the Cowbell Award presented by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Dairy Association (1973), Outstanding Volunteer from the Wisconsin Heart Association (1977); Distinguished Agriculturist Award from the Marshfield Jaycees (1989); the Gwen D. Sebold Research Fellowship Award (1989); Marshfield Clinic Heritage Award (2006); Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Saskatchewan and others.

In 1952, Dean married the former Lorraine (Lorrie) Blank of Mauston, who would be his life-long partner. They were the parents of Julie, Peter, Lisa and Jeff.

Upon his retirement, Emanuel, and his wife, started a yearly trip to St. Lucia to see and treat cardiology patients. They brought 18 of those patients for cardiac surgery here and then returned them home.

Dr. Dean Emanuel died February 28, 2016, at the age of 92. He is remembered for his distinguished medical career and for his dedication to solving medical problems faced by farmers and other rural residents.