

Allan Levente Lorincz, M.D.
1924-2010



It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Dr. Allan L. Lorincz, who died in Chicago on September 7th, 2010 at the age of 85, after a long struggle with Parkinson disease. He will be deeply missed by many former colleagues and students.

Born in Chicago, Dr. Lorincz received all his higher education and spent his entire career at the University of Chicago. There he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and received a baccalaureate degree in 1945; was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha and received a medical degree in 1947; performed a medical internship in 1948; and completed a dermatology residency in 1951 and a research fellowship in 1952. He joined the full-time faculty of the University of Chicago as an Assistant Professor of Medicine (Dermatology) in 1952; he maintained this appointment while fulfilling military service as Chief of the Department of Dermatology at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC from 1954 to 1956. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1957 and to Professor in 1967, and served as Chief of the Section of Dermatology from 1960 to 1991. After stepping down as Chief he continued to work full-time in education and patient care almost until his retirement in 2006. Looking back in 2007, Dr. Lorincz stated:

Entering the University of Chicago opened to me the wondrous world of a great community of scholars. The intellectual climate in that scholarly community truly energized me and provided many of the best times of my life. I am honored, humbled, and most grateful for the fantastic, very enjoyable life adventure I have had at the University of Chicago.

Early on, Dr. Lorincz's legendary mentor Dr. Stephen Rothman recognized his uncommon gifts and provided him with a fine laboratory, ample protected time, and an ideal atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and collegiality. In that supportive environment Dr. Lorincz pioneered diverse investigations on collagenase, melanogenesis, tumor immunology, endocrinology, mycology, neurophysiology, and lipid chemistry. In 1957 Dr. Rothman wrote of his young protégé:

Lorincz is a brilliant man. The main feature ... is his ability to see old problems which have come to a dead end suddenly in an entirely new light with new possibilities of experimental approach. Similarly, he picks up new problems with an uncanny vision. His basic training is amazingly broad. He has modern physiology, biochemistry, genetics, pharmacology and pathology at his finger tips and has a remarkable ability to apply this knowledge to clinical dermatological problems.

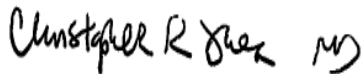
Following his promotion to Chief, Dr. Lorincz turned away from the bench to take on new administrative demands. He took great pride in his role as leader and especially enjoyed educating his house staff. He was a peerless diagnostician with an awe-inspiring frame of reference and an immense treasury of personal experience. His deep understanding of basic science and dermatopathology sharpened his clinical acumen. He added notably to the clinical literature, contributing papers on wound healing and on creative therapeutic uses of sulfones, niacinamide, tetracycline, and opiate antagonists. In all, he had over 130 publications.

Dr. Lorincz was board-certified in dermatology and syphilology in 1955 and in dermatopathology in 1974. He held positions of high distinction in numerous medical societies, including service on the Board of Directors and as Vice President of the Society for Investigative Dermatology. He received honorary memberships in the dermatological societies of Denmark, Venezuela, Japan, South Korea, and Poland. The University of Chicago Medical and Biological Sciences Alumni Association presented him with its Gold Key Award in 1997 and Distinguished Service Award in 2007. He served as the President of the Chicago Dermatological Society and of the Illinois State Dermatological Society. In 1989 he received the first Gold Medal Award of the CDS and was further celebrated by the creation of an endowed lectureship bearing his name, still the highlight of the annual CDS meeting conducted at the University of Chicago. The fame of Dr. Lorincz shall endure through these renowned lectures held in his honor.

Dr. Lorincz married his devoted wife Lillian *née* Tatter in Chicago in 1952; they remained united until her death in 1996. He is survived by their children Linda, Donald, and Alice, three grandchildren, and his brothers Drs. Albert and Andrew Lorincz, both alumni of the University of Chicago School of Medicine. A memorial service at the University of Chicago is being planned.

Dr. Lorincz epitomized the consummate clinician-academician of the old school: dedicated healer, profound scholar, and cherished master to countless students, residents, and fellows.

With deep sympathy,



Christopher R. Shea, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of Dermatology
The University of Chicago