

1977  
**Rudolf Schindler  
Award**

Presentation by  
**Angelo E. Dagradi**

The recipient of your Society's Rudolf Schindler Award this year is recognized internationally as an endoscopist, gastroenterologist, teacher, clinical researcher, and medical author.

During the past 29 years, Dr. Leonidas H. Berry has educated and trained in gastrointestinal endoscopy more than 400 physicians at the Cook County Graduate School and County Hospital. He has devoted many years of leadership as a voluntary worker in community health problems. He has demonstrated clinical endoscopy for the US Department of State, in East and West Africa, in various Asian countries, and in Paris, France. He has participated in White House Conferences on Health and served on National Advisory Councils for HEW programs. Our honoree has served this Society from its inception by presenting original papers and demonstrations. He is a past-president of the National Medical Association.

Dr. Berry's father was a Methodist minister and his mother a school teacher in her earlier years. The eldest of 6 children, Leonidas was born on his grandfather's farm near Roxboro, North Carolina, and spent most of his childhood in Norfolk, Virginia. From a very early age he aspired to become a physician. Although he had graduated from Wilberforce (a college near Xenia, Ohio, founded by the African-Methodist Church before the Civil War), he was required to earn a second bachelor's degree at the University of Chicago to enter medical school. Thirty years later, the University of Chicago presented him with an alumni achievement award for public service.



The recipient of the 1977 Rudolf Schindler Award, Dr. Leonidas H. Berry (left) is congratulated by AIS/GIE president John F. Morrissey (right). Dr. Angelo E. Dagradi (center) presented the award citation.



At medical school, Leonidas met Professor Sidney A. Portis, a well-known gastroenterologist. When the University of Chicago gave a special fellowship in internal medicine to Dr. Berry, Dr. Portis became his sponsor at the Cook County Hospital. This was part of a program between the University of Chicago and the affiliated Biracial Provident Hospital, where Dr. Berry eventually became Chief Gastroenterologist and Gastroscopist. This relationship offered the unique opportunity for Dr. Berry to work with Dr. Rudolf Schindler for most of 2 years, just a year after Dr. Schindler's arrival at the University of Chicago from Germany.

He founded the first outpatient medical counselling clinics for narcotic addicts in America and coordinated them for 8 years. His "Skid Row" Project represented the first extensive gastroscopic study of alcohol addicts to appear in the world literature. He also founded the "Flying Black Medics" for service to southern Illinois. He has organized many biomedical recruitment projects.

The man we honor today feels that one of the rich blessings of his life has been to witness, in his twilight years, the unfolding of childhood dreams of equal opportunity for all Americans.

response by  
**Leonidas H. Berry**

Mr. President, my colleagues in gastroenterology and endoscopy, ladies and gentlemen: It is with great humility and very deep gratitude that I accept this distinguished award in honor of and in memory of our most distinguished founder, Rudolf Schindler.

I am especially honored to be one of the recipients who personally witnessed the power of his indomitable spirit, his infectious enthusiasm, and in whom he lit a spark which has led to the present-day realization of his dream.

If ever a man lit a candle rather than curse the darkness, it was Rudolf Schindler. He was truly a legend in his own time, symbolized when he himself was chosen to receive the tenth Schindler award.

I accept this recognition which you bestow upon me today especially for the many graduate students who studied the fundamentals of gastrointestinal endoscopy with me during a continuous journey of nearly 40 years at the Cook County Graduate School and Hospital. It is they who demonstrated to me the energizing power of stimulation and inspiration in the pursuit of human achievement. Thanks again very much to all of you. But I expect to be around a while longer because old good doctors never die; they just lose their patients.