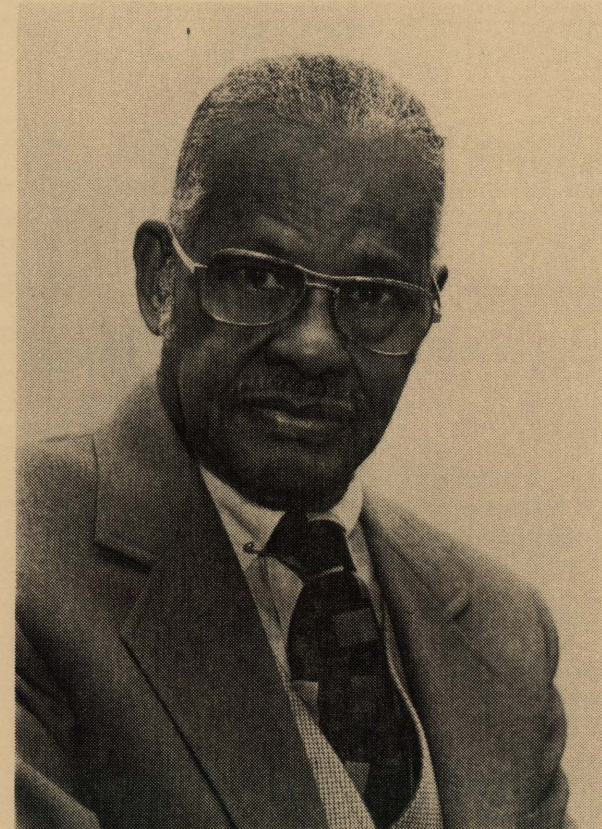


**Dr. Leonidas Berry:
Medical Pioneer**



**An Exhibition of Photographs
and Selected Memorabilia
January 11 - March 29, 1987
DuSable Museum of
African American History**

**Leonidas Berry, B.S., M.S., M.D.,
Sc.D. (Hon.) L.L.D. (Hon.)**

A practicing physician for nearly fifty-six years, Dr. Leonidas H. Berry received his medical degree from the Rush Medical College at the University of Chicago in 1930. To the present day, his contributions to the field of gastroenterology continue.

Dr. Berry organized the first Gastroenterology Clinic in a predominantly Black institution in 1934 at Provident Hospital in Chicago. His partnership with the great pioneer endoscopist, Dr. Rudolph Shindler of Billings Hospital, another affiliate of the University of Chicago, led to the creation of the Berry gastrobiopsy scope in 1956. A pioneer direct-vision instrument, this gastrobiopsy scope was used to obtain tissue samples from the stomach for direct examination and was developed with the Eder Instrument Company.

As the first physician to perform gastroscopies at several Chicago hospitals during the 1930s and 1940s, Dr. Berry recognized the need to see the gastrointestinal system. So, he enlisted the expertise of a visiting Japanese gastroenterologist. This resulted in the first gastro-camera photographs ever to be made in this country. That same specialist arranged with the Olympus Company of Japan to introduce the use of the gastro-camera to the United States at Cook County Hospital, where Dr. Berry had created a gastroscopic unit in 1937.

Once a very active member of the international lecture circuit for world Congresses and the Cultural Exchange Division of the U.S. Department of State, Dr. Berry's sphere of influence extends wide and far, from Japan to Africa. He, in fact, trained many of the world's current chiefs of gastroenterology and leading endoscopists, especially during his tenure at Cook County Hospital and at Cook County Graduate School.

His milestone contributions to the development of gastrointestinal endoscopy were recognized in 1977 when he was presented the coveted Schindler Award by the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.

Dr. Berry is the senior author and editor of a comprehensive textbook "*Gastrointestinal Pan-Endoscopy*," one of twelve books for which he served as editor, author or contributor. He also has witnessed the publication of "*I Wouldn't Take Nothin' for My Journey*": *Two Centuries of an African Minister's Family*. A genealogical history of his family, the book follows six generations from slavery to twentieth century medicine. Dr. Berry's own life epitomizes the search for excellence undampened by obstacles that face a Black physician in the twentieth century.

His colleagues have ensured that his contributions in the field of gastroenterology and the humane aspects of medicine will remain recognized in medical history by establishing the Leonidas H. Berry Society. The Society maintains a commitment to pursue dialogue, research and teaching with the same excellence and spiritual devotion that Dr. Berry demonstrated throughout his lifetime. Always the dedicated man, he continues to work.

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