

## Acceptance

### President Aufses, special guests, my former students and associates, ladies and gentlemen:

I am highly honored, humbled, and proud to have been selected to receive the first Annual Clinical Achievement Award of the American College of Gastroenterology. As I stand here, I am reminiscent of my long association with the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and its forerunner, the National Gastroenterological Association (NGA). The founders structured a fellowship of companions interested in the study of digestive diseases and the compassionate practice of clinical medicine. The Society was designed to be exclusive without arrogance, inclusive without mediocrity, and progressive with solidarity. The College has maintained these principles for more than a half century. Today, it is second to none in the stature of its membership, in the quality of its programs of continuing education, and in the solidarity of its growth.

I was fortunate to be elected to the NGA just out of my residency in medicine and gastroenterology. It seems like just yesterday, and indeed it was. Anthony Basselor was the kindhearted third president in 1936. Franklin Roosevelt was in the White House. The New Deal shrouded the nation, and I stood poised as a "Young Warrior" in search of excellence and of growth in medicine. I found such opportunities only in the National Gastroenterological Association. Fifty-one years later, I look back with gratitude for your acceptance and interest in my "boot strap(s)" clinical research. Through the years, I found increasing acceptance and interest when my studies attained support by clinical grants. I presented my studies at conventions, and designed and displayed controlled exhibits with my younger associates from Provident and Cook County Hospitals in Chicago, one of whom is my loyal friend, Dr. Robert Schoop, who brought me almost "piggy-back" here this evening. I've seen others of my close associates and former students, and I wish they would stand briefly for a greeting. They would honor me greatly by assembling at the podium following this meeting for an archival photograph. If I may continue,

I participated in "Meet the Professor" seminars, served as your Governor from Illinois, and enjoyed the work as a trustee. I am happy for the growth you stimulated in clinical research and teaching, and beyond all else, the compassionate practice of clinical medicine.

I am reminded of two most unforgettable patient experiences which I would like to share with you. I had examined patient "A" perhaps a dozen times gastroscopically while monitoring a special therapy in severe, chronic gastritis. On a subsequent clinic visit he said, "Doctor, my stomach is feeling much better recently, but do you realize it has been two whole weeks since you've had a look? Don't you think you had better take another peek?" For me that represented the triumph of compassion over technology.

Patient "B" had a questionable malignant gastric ulcer by x-ray. On four consecutive visits he refused gastroscopy. On the fifth visit he appeared with a look of contentment and said, "Doctor, I've been thinking a great deal about that gastroscope. In fact I've prayed about it, and I've decided that if it means that much to you, I'll let you do it." That, ladies and gentlemen, represents the triumph of empathy and compassion over technology, the <sup>essence</sup> ~~essence~~ of possibilities in clinical gastroenterology. <sup>epitome</sup>

The NGA and the ACG chartered my route to world congresses and editorships of internationally authored textbooks in gastroenterology. You taught me that significant achievement can be consonant with tolerance. To those of you who are younger, this is my valedictory and as a "Happy Warrior," I place my mantle on your shoulders and bid you Godspeed. I say to you, carry on with dedicated toil, and you will continue to find joy in the spirit of those who have gone before and made this excellent organization possible. You then will reach greater and greater heights in your continued search for truth with equality and equality in the service of all mankind. I thank you.

*Leonidas H. Berry, M.D., F.A.C.G.  
Chicago, Illinois*

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE  
OF GASTROENTEROLOGY  
FIRST CLINICAL ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD. AND ACCEPTANCE  
SPEECH



FIG. 1. Dr. Leonidas Berry (back row, third from left) and former gastroscopy students from Cook County Hospital and Graduate School at the annual banquet of the American College of Gastroenterology. Front row (from left): Drs. Francis M. Maple, Springfield, MO; Robert C. Schoop, Maywood, IL; Edward B. Magio, Chicago, IL; Allan J. Schmitt, Rochester, MN; and Henry Colcher, Washington, DC. Back row (from left): Drs. Fevzi S. Pamukka, Kenosha, WI; Richard S. McCray, New York, NY; Leonidas H. Berry, Chicago, IL; Howard Jay Eddy, Jr., Garden City, NY; John DiBianco, Princeton, NJ; Sidney W. Rosen, Fall River, MA. Drs. Richard S. McCray, Howard Jay Eddy, Jr., and Henry Colcher were contributing authors in Dr. Berry's classic textbook, "Gastrointestinal Panendoscopy." (Photograph reprinted with permission from *Internal Medicine News*.)