The Journal of **THORACIC AND CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY**

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THORACIC SURGERY

2000 AATS SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT—DENTON A. COOLEY, MD

Delos M. Cosgrove, MD

The Scientific Achievement Award is presented by The American Association for Thoracic Surgery to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to our specialty. Previous recipients include Drs John W. Kirklin, Norman E. Shumway, and Michael E. DeBakey. We are very pleased to present this award to a surgeon internationally recognized for his surgical skills, innovations, and leadership, Dr Denton A. Cooley.

Dr Cooley was born and reared in Houston and attended the University of Texas, where he played varsity basketball and graduated with highest honors and Phi Beta Kappa. He matriculated to the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston. After two years, he transferred to Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. He graduated Alpha Omega Alpha from there in 1944. He completed a six-year residency under Alfred Blalock at Johns Hopkins. He

served two years of military duty at the 124th Station Hospital in Linz, Austria. At the completion of his training, he became senior registrar for Sir Russell Brock at the Brompton Hospital in London. He joined the full-time medical faculty at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and practiced there from 1951 to 1969. He resigned to become chief of surgery at the Texas Heart Institute.

His facility as a surgeon is legendary, as are his contributions to our specialty. Among his original contributions are excision of aortic aneurysm, excision of ruptured abdominal aneurysm, repair of a postinfarction ventricular septal defect, correction of total anomalous venous drainage, and excision of a ventricular aneurysm with cardiopulmonary bypass. In addition, he was the first to do pulmonary embolectomies using cardiopulmonary bypass, and he introduced crystalloid prime in disposable cardiopulmonary bypass machines. He developed the procedure for ventricular endoaneurysmorrhaphy, put in the first total artificial heart, and replaced mitral valves in patients with idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis.

There are few areas in the world where his influence has not been extended through one of his trainees.

His contributions to the literature include more than 1100 articles and six books. Dr Cooley has been widely recognized and has received decorations from 13 dif-

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ferent countries, seven honorary degrees, and honorary memberships from the Royal College of Surgeons of Glasgow, Ireland, Australia, and England. He has received more than 100 awards including the Rene Leriche Prize from the International Surgical Society; the Theodore Roosevelt Award, given by the National Collegiate Athletic Association for a varsity athlete who made a major contribution in his field; and the Gifted Teacher Award from the American College of Cardiology. He was made a member of the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars and president

of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. In 1984, President Reagan presented him the nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom. Last year, President Clinton awarded him the National Medal of Technology.

Dr Cooley has been married for 51 years to Elizabeth Thomas Cooley. They have five daughters and sixteen grandchildren. It is my pleasure to present the Scientific Achievement Award to an innovator, educator, surgeon extraordinaire, and one of the seminal figures in our specialty, Dr Denton A. Cooley.

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