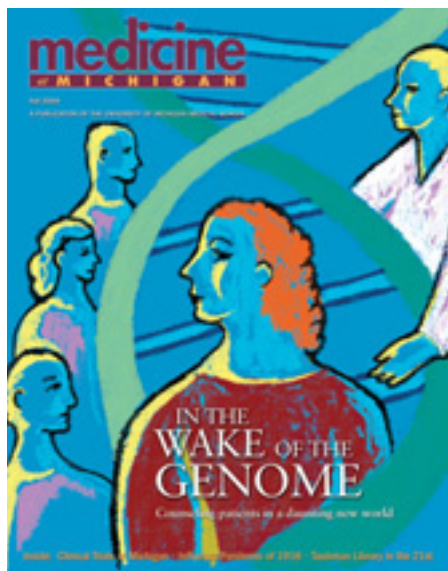


LETTERS



Memories of Medicine at Michigan

The articles on genetic counseling in the fall 2004 issue of *Medicine at Michigan* brought memories back to me. In 1946 I applied for a rotating pediatric internship at Michigan largely because of the presence of Dr. Lee R. Dice's heredity

clinic. I had already received my Ph.D. in zoology (genetics). At Ann Arbor I was able to meet with Drs. James V. Neel, Harold F. Falls, and Charles Cotterman, attend meetings with them, and meet visiting dignitaries.

Another feature of my internship at Ann Arbor was my month in Obstetrics, then located in an old mansion adjacent to the main hospital. I was the sole intern and I lived in the small attic room on the third floor. I was there for the month of December, and my only time off the entire month was three hours on Christmas Eve to be with my wife and son! As an intern, I had to do all routine lab work, and did the nighttime deliveries (12). The delivery room was similar to the little circular amphitheaters pictured in old books. Incidentally, I saw the professor of ob/gyn only once that month, since he occupied himself with gynecological work in the main hospital. A memorable experience for me occurred during one of the early evening deliveries with about six medical students in attendance. As the infant's brow appeared, first one student, then another, fainted and slipped under the rail alongside my stool!

On completion of my internship I entered the Army and was tracked down by Dr. Neel at Fitzsimons Hospital in Denver in August of 1947, and was asked if I would be willing to join him in organizing the genetics program that was to be part of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Japan. Thus, I was involved in the start of that program in November of 1947. I decided to document my experiences there by keeping a daily diary and taking photographs (about 500). The librarian at the Texas library where records of the ABCC were being filed learned of my diary and asked for permission to copy it and some photographs about five years ago, and I was happy to oblige. I realized that no one else had documented the early start of ABCC as I had, and I am therefore in the process of having my records published by Elan Press.

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Photo: Courtesy Ray Anderson



Anderson (front row, center) and members of his genetics staff on the roof of the Hiroshima Red Cross Hospital on January 10, 1949

Photo: Courtesy Ray Anderson



Anderson (fourth from left) on a matsutake ("pine mushroom") hunt with friends just east of Hiroshima on October 17, 1948. According to Anderson, these mushrooms are very expensive and highly sought after today.

Global Grad

It is wonderful to read in *Medicine at Michigan* of my colleagues and teachers! I enclose news of a recent, unexpected award that has come my way, presented in Toledo on February 19, between my missions to Mindanao and Sudan (see Class Notes, page 56). I hope it represents a theme carried forward from my “Maize and Blue” days in encouraging medical students toward a global outreach.

I will be returning to Haiti in late spring. Please visit my online journal at <http://home.gwu.edu/~gwg>. Cheers!

Glenn W. Geelhoed (M.D. 1968)
Derwood, Maryland

Readers, please share your thoughts, comments and questions with us.

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Letters may be edited for clarity, style or length.

In the next I S S U E

of *Medicine at Michigan*: U-M research into the promise and perils of bone marrow transplantation, and its translation to clinical care ... the lifelong importance of mentors ... health care delivery that crosses cultural and social barriers. Also: nanotargeting of anti-cancer drugs; statins and lower colon cancer risk; and a look back on Michigan's first pacemaker.

Photo: PictureQuest



‘These Things I Do Promise ...’

On June 3 in Hill Auditorium, members of the Class of 2005 vowed loyalty to the profession of medicine and to practice their art with honor, embarking upon the next phase of their careers as physicians and medical scientists. They join thousands of other Michigan-trained M.D.s throughout the country as esteemed alumni of the U-M Medical School.

Rear Admiral Susan Blumenthal, M.D., former U.S. assistant surgeon general, delivered the commencement address, ‘The Hippocratic Oath: Ancient Lessons for 21st Century Global Health Challenges,’ prior to the presentation of awards and diplomas. A complete list of faculty and student awards can be seen at www.medicineatmichigan.org/magazine. Residency matches for this year's graduates can be found on page 48.