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## DR. JACK H. MEDALIE

Jun 29, 2006



Medalie

Dr. Jack H. Medalie, renowned pioneer in the field of family and preventive medicine, died June 20 at age 84. He was one of only seven family-medicine physicians in the world in the mid-1960s.

Dr. Medalie founded the Case Western Reserve University Department of Family Medicine, known for its innovations in teaching, patient care, research, and for studying patients' family relationships and medical histories as a quick means of evaluating an individual's health risks. A department chair

for 12 years and subsequently appointed professor emeritus, he was the 1998 recipient of the prestigious Maurice Wood Award for Lifetime Contribution to Primary Care Research.

Dr. Medalie was believed to hold the first endowed chair in family medicine in the US and was the first holder of the Dorothy Jones Weatherhead Professorship in Family Medicine. Recipient of the Mt. Sinai Saltzman Award and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Curtis Hames Research Award for his lifetime research, Dr. Medalie was elected to the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine in 1978.

Born in Buhl, Minn., Dr. Medalie was educated in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he received his medical degree and taught at universities. As a medical student, he served in World War II in active service in the South African Army. He went to Israel in June 1948, where he joined the Israeli Army for Israel's War of Independence as a physician of a unit of the Palmach. He was also involved in the 1956 War (also known as the Sinai Campaign) and the Six-Day War of 1967.

With nearly 100 people they knew from South Africa, Dr. Medalie and his wife began the settlement Moshav Habonim in Israel. A rural doctor for five years, Dr. Medalie became the medical director at the Kiryat Yovel Health Center in Jerusalem for 10 years, later becoming the first chairman of family medicine at Tel Aviv University. He also ran a seven-year study of heart disease through the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Medalie was recruited by Case for its new family medicine department in 1975, which brought him back to the US.

Dr. Medalie played tennis and was an avid soccer fan. In later years, he enjoyed movies, reading, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Dr. Medalie is survived by his wife of 58 years, June; sons Ilan of Israel and Ron of Parkland, Fla.; daughter Karin Kleppel; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society.