

John C. McGiff, M.D.
1927-2013

Dr. John C. McGiff received a BS degree from Georgetown University and an MD from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. He interned at Cincinnati General Hospital and entered Medical Residency at the University of Virginia, which was interrupted by military service. After attending U.S. Naval School of Aviation Medicine, Pensacola, Dr. McGiff served in Korea and Japan with Marine Air Groups 11 and 12 as Senior Medical Officer and Flight Surgeon. On discharge, he returned to Columbia University as Research Fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA). He completed his clinical training at the Pennsylvania Hospital and was appointed in 1962 to a joint Faculty position in the Departments of Medicine and Pharmacology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. McGiff received an Established Investigatorship from the AHA (1964-1969) and in 1966 was awarded a Grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which he still holds.

From 1966 to 1971, Dr. McGiff served as Chief of Cardiology at St. Louis University. In 1971, he joined the Department of Pharmacology, Medical College of Wisconsin and was made a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Scholar in Clinical Pharmacology. In 1974, he was invited by Sir John Vane to join the Wellcome Research Laboratories (England) as a Visiting Scientist where he remained until 1976 when he was appointed to the Chair of Pharmacology at the University of Tennessee. Dr. McGiff has been Chairman of Pharmacology at New York Medical College since 1979.

Dr. McGiff served on three Study Sections of NIH concluding with service as Chairman of the Cardiovascular Renal Study Section (1994-1996). He was appointed to the NIH Arteriosclerosis, Hypertension and Lipid Metabolism Advisory Committee for a four-year period and served as a Delegate in Scientific Exchange Programs sponsored by NIH with Italy, Poland and the Soviet Union (1978-1984).

Over the past 20 years, Dr. McGiff has worked mainly in the area of the biochemistry, physiology and clinical pharmacology of novel arachidonate metabolites generated by cytochrome P450 monooxygenases that serve critical mechanisms involved in circulatory and renal physiology and impact on the clinical management of hypertension, congestive heart failure, renal disease and hepatic cirrhosis.

In 1998, Dr. McGiff along with three other investigators brought to us the first Winter Eicosanoid Conference, held in Baltimore, Maryland.

Several awards bear mentioning: Outstanding Research Award from the Wisconsin Heart Association (1975); The Medal of Achievement, Copernicus Academy of Medicine, Krakow, Poland (1984); the CIBA Award for Hypertension Research from the AHA Council for High Blood Pressure Research (1986); the MERIT Award from NHLBI (1990-2000); the Otto Kraymer Award from the American Society for Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (1997); the Richard Bright Award from the American Society of Hypertension (1997); Lifetime Achievement Award in Hypertension, Council for High Blood Pressure Research, AHA (2004); Western Returned Scholars Association Lifetime Achievement Award, Beijing, China (2009).

He has also received Honorary Doctorates from the Copernicus Academy of Medicine, Krakow, Poland (1987) and Fu Jen University, Taiwan (2001).