Carl Vernon Moore
(1908-1972)

Carl Vernon Moore died on August 13, 1972. With his passing, an unequalled era in hematology lost an unsurpassed leader.
Carl Moore was born in St. Louis in 1908. His father was a policeman and his mother operated a confectionery. He did not have an easy time financially as a young man and worked as a pharmacy assistant, an elevator operator, and a steel mill laborer. For fun, he shagged baseballs for the St. Louis Browns. Many years later, as one of the few fans still having loyalty to that fallen team, he wistfully recalled those earlier days.

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He graduated from high school at age 15, intent on becoming a minister. After 3 years at Elmhurst College, he transferred to Washington University where he received his A.B. degree at 19 and his M.D. degree with honors at 23 years of age.

Following 2 years of house staff training in Pathology and Medicine at Barnes Hospital, he went to Ohio State University as a National Research Council Fellow in Medicine with Charles A. Doan. Austin, as Dr. Doan was known to Carl Moore, became a lifelong confidant. Following his fellowship, Carl Moore remained at Ohio State University for 2 additional years as Instructor and then as Assistant Professor of Medicine.

The years at Columbus, which launched his distinguished career in hematology, were additionally notable, for there he met and married the charming and talented Dorothy Adams. How well they complemented each other! Dorothy Moore was to be recognized not only as a devoted wife and mother, but also, like Carl Moore, as a vigorous champion of Washington University and the St. Louis community. In Columbus, too, Carl Moore began his professional collaboration with Virginia Minnich, who was then a graduate student studying iron in nutrition. Beyond her considerable scientific accomplishments, she was to become the beloved friend of all trainees and the recorder of all hematology division events at Washington University.

He returned to St. Louis in 1938 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. By 1946, he was Professor of Medicine, with achievements already sufficient to attract international attention: leadership in studies on iron metabolism, the Presidency of the Central Society for Clinical Research, Editorship of the Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine and directorship of a coveted training program.

His destiny within Washington University was predictable. When W. Barry Wood, Jr. became Chairman of the Department of Medicine in 1942, he recognized Carl Moore’s qualities of leadership and judgment. They soon shared mutual respect and affection. Out of their association came the most successful prototype for joint administration of a department—a model now often adopted. Carl Moore and Barry Wood, Barry Wood and Carl Moore—they alternated first with each new honor. Their careers were tightly interwoven, unmentioned but so well known to the audience in 1971, when Carl Moore made the Kober Medal presentation to Barry Wood, 6 weeks posthumously. And now both are gone, too early; both of myocardial infarction.

When Barry Wood had returned to Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1955, Carl Moore became Busch Professor of Medicine and Chairman of the Department at Washington University, a position he held until his death. During this period, this outstanding Department of Medicine and outstanding School achieved their greatest distinction, in large measure due to his efforts and leadership. He served additionally as Dean of the School, 1953–55, and as Vice-Chancellor for Medical Affairs, 1964–65. No position within the University was beyond his reach, but his abiding love was the Department of Medicine.
There are no adequate measures of the influence this extraordinary man had on medical education, science, and service. A listing of his most important appointments and honors barely suggests the dimensions of his role.

In addition to his earlier accomplishments, he was President of the American Society for Clinical Investigation; President of the Association of American Physicians; President of the American Society of Hematology; President of the International Society of Hematology; member of the National Academy of Sciences; fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians; Chairman of the Hematology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health; Consultant to the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health; member of the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Counsellors; member of the United States Public Health Service National Advisory Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases Council; Special Advisor to the Committee on Clinical Research Centers, National Advisory Health Council, Division of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health; Chairman of the Blood and Blood Derivatives Committee of the National Research Council; Consultant on Research and Development, Department of Defense; member of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine, Atomic Energy Commission; Chairman of the Section on Experimental Medicine and Therapeutics, American Medical Association; member of the Council on Foods and Nutrition, American Medical Association, member of the American Board of Nutrition; member of the Norman Jolliff Medical Student Fellowship Awards Committee, American Society for Clinical Nutrition; member of the American Institute of Nutrition; Chairman, Advisory Council, Life Insurance Medical Research Fund; consultant to the Hematology Advisory Committee, Food and Drug Administration; member of the panel of expert consultants to the Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory; member of the Advisory Committee on Institutional Research Grants, American Cancer Society; member of the Advisory Committee, Burroughs-Wellcome Fund; member of the American Society of Experimental Pathology; member of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine; member of the United States Pharmacopia Panel on Hematology.

Honors included the Joseph Goldberger Award in Clinical Nutrition; the Alumni Award, Washington University; Modern Medicine Award for Distinguished Achievement; John Phillips Memorial Award for Distinguished Contributions in Internal Medicine, American College of Physicians; and the Stratton Medal, International Society of Hematology.

Distinguished lecturerships included the Jacobaeus Lecture; Mathe Foundation Lecture; Bodansky Lecture; George Minot Lecture; Cleve Ewell Memorial Lecture; Myrtle M. Laughlin Lecture; Bruce K. Wiseman Memorial Lecture; Joseph Goldberger Lecture; the Stratton Lecture; and the Harvey Lecture.

He was an honorary member of numerous scientific societies of other nations.

He was a member of several editorial boards: Blood, Nutrition Reviews, Journal of Nutrition, American Journal of Medicine, Journal of Chronic Diseases, Progress in Hematology, and Cecil's Textbook of Medicine.
He authored or co-authored some 150 scientific articles, most with Virginia Minnich and his other abiding and able woman colleague, Reubenia Dubach; in addition, William Arrowsmith, Edward Reinhard, and Elmer Brown were frequent collaborators in his major areas of interest: the anemias, iron metabolism, and immunohematology. A high proportion of his studies were to become classics. He often quoted Florence Sabin, who once told him that it was shameful for any investigator to publish more than 100 articles in his lifetime. Although Carl Moore ultimately failed in this limitation, he, at least, had no cause for shame. His name never appeared on any publication unless he was a significant contributor. He was a careful, imaginative investigator, thoroughly deserving of his acclaim, especially in the field of iron metabolism.

He was also an extraordinary teacher, whose lectures were masterpieces. There was no showmanship—a quality he did not deprecate for those, unlike him, who could use it to advantage. For him, the art of teaching lay in organization, clarity, and thoroughness. He was gently but firmly critical of anything less, reflecting in part his long experience as an accomplished editor.

What kind of person was Carl Moore?

He was a truly compassionate physician, never abrupt or hasty and always available. How moving was the response of his patients to his presence, though so many had fatal diseases.

He was uncomplicated. He was expert on proved formulae for professional and academic achievement and his Department and School were never subjected to risky, untested ventures. He usually spoke last in group deliberations and typically with the best comprehension and analysis.

He was profoundly thoughtful and considerate. He knew that his Department was made up of people—not himself, but other people: colleagues, house officers, fellows, students, and nonacademic personnel. All had ready access to him, regardless of an overburdened schedule. And he promoted his Department members in national circles with quiet, unembarrassed pride. Shortly before his death, he announced his plans for becoming Cancer Coordinator for Washington University, with the request that a Search Committee be set up to seek a new Chairman for the Department of Medicine. In a personal letter, he stated: “It is a funny feeling to ask that somebody be appointed my successor . . . one of the real joys of the job, as you now know, is the opportunity it gives one to be closely associated with so many fine young men.” And how deeply he meant it.

From the Department of Medicine under Carl Moore came one university president, three vice presidents, three deans, seven department chairmen, and 12 directors of hematology in American medical schools, as well as many men of stature in other fields of internal medicine and in other countries. There are scores of academic and practicing hematologists as well as hundreds of other physicians whose lives were meaningfully influenced by him.

In addition to all of these, the at-large indebtedness to Carl Moore is incalculable; the impact he had for 25 years on public and private health-related national agencies and organizations directly influenced the form and character of all of medicine, particularly the careers of its academic members.
OBITUARY

He is survived by his wife, his daughter Judith, two grandchildren, his sister, and his mother.

We shall all miss Carl Moore. He had no critics, only grateful friends.

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