

OBITUARY

Grover M. Hutchins, MD

1933-2010

Dr. Grover M. Hutchins died on April 27, 2010, following an accident while traveling abroad with his wife Loretta Hutchins. He was 77.

Dr. Hutchins was born in Baltimore, MD, and graduated from Sparks High School in 1949. He served in the US Army (1952–1954) and received his B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University in 1957. Dr. Hutchins earned his M.D. at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1961 and completed his residency in anatomic pathology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1965. He was board certified in anatomic pathology and pediatric pathology. He served as assistant professor (1967–1973), associate professor (1973– 1983), and professor of pathology (1983 until his death) at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Hutchins served as associate director of autopsy pathology from 1967 to 1976 and as director from 1976 to 1998.

Dr. Hutchins was a prolific clinico-pathologic researcher, with over 500 papers published in peer-reviewed journals at the time of his death, as well as hundreds of academic presentations, more than 50 book chapters, and two books. He was a tireless champion of the autopsy as a quality assurance, educational, and research tool. Among over 50,000 autopsies performed at The Johns Hopkins Hospital since 1889, Dr. Hutchins personally examined reports and slides from over one quarter of the cases, as part of his research and educational work.

Dr. Hutchins was an acclaimed professional educator and medical school teacher. He gave lectures on cardiac and pediatric pathology in the medical school pathology course, provided postgraduate training to pathology and other medical residents, and taught numerous courses to professional colleagues. Nearly all the peer-reviewed papers published during Dr. Hutchins' career were collaborations involving medical colleagues, residents, and medical students. Many of the leading academic pathologists today were nurtured by collaborations with Dr. Hutchins. Dr. Hutchins had a few rules of academic collaboration, which he followed

consistently. The face page for a research paper (title, authors, order of authors, work assignments, institutional affiliations, funding, etc.) was settled before substantial work began on the project. In this way, there would be no second guessing later in the project of who did what. The person writing the first draft of the research paper became the first author. Thus Dr. Hutchins gave hard-working junior colleagues the opportunity to be first author on a research study. Dr. Hutchins also managed any political fallout from powerful colleagues, who might seek to marginalize the contributions of junior colleagues. Dr. Hutchins had a strong sense of fairness in rewarding collaborators on the basis of their work product, not on their political position.

Dr. Hutchins had a probing intellect and a deep sense of the importance of pathology and autopsy pathology. Through careful gross and microscopic observations he helped to elucidate the mechanistic relationship between coronary artery disease and myocardial infarction, the anatomic basis for a number of congenital diseases, and the organ-specific effects of clinically important systemic diseases such as sarcoidosis and progressive systemic sclerosis. It is not surprising that in 2009 he received the College of American Pathologists Lifetime Achievement Award.

We both had the opportunity of working with Dr. Hutchins first as trainees and later as colleagues on the faculty. Dr. Hutchins had a brilliant mind, a subtle sense of humor, and the ability to turn a fragment of any conversation into a witty observation. He was a keen observer of images and an aficionado of art museums. It seemed to us that Dr. Hutchins probably remembered the detailed appearance of every autopsy slide he had ever examined. In his semiretirement, Dr. Hutchins split his time between his still-active research and service career in the department and far-flung vacations with the love of his life and wife of 53 years, Loretta. He leaves behind a magnificent legacy of academic achievement and mentorship. He will be greatly missed.

Dr. Hutchins is survived by his wife and two daughters, Mrs. Diana Hutchins-Bowling and Mrs. Sally Hutchins-Green; three grandchildren, Kassandra, Kameron, and Zana; two sons-in-law, Karlus Bowling and John Green; and two brothers, Leslie DeVine and Thomas Hutchins. A son, David, died in 2006.

G. William Moore
Ralph H. Hruban

