

# Physician Profile: Dr. Isaac V. Manly

by Sue Jenkins

Ike and Peggy met at a dance following Wellesley College's annual "Junior Show" where Peggy Sawyer had the leading role and sang her way across the boards. Her family likes to believe that it was no accident that the heroine in the play *42nd Street* carries her name, especially since one of Peggy's classmates from Wellesley was involved in the production. Ike dazzled her with his Goldsboro colloquialism, "You'd make a bull dog snap his chain," and Peggy Sawyer never looked back. Following Ike's medical studies at Harvard, he served in the hospital at the submarine base in New London, Connecticut. They married in 1948 and returned to Boston where Ike completed his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. Following a brief stint in the dust bowl of Kansas, Ike chose to return to his alma mater where he served on the faculty of the Medical School at UNC and earned an additional degree in Thoracic Surgery.

In 1954, Ike and Peggy moved to Raleigh where Ike set up his private practice. His brother, Dr. James H. Manly, joined him two years later. Peggy was busy rearing their four children, Kathie, Sawyer, Betsy and Peggy Lou and making the life-long friendships she has treasured. In her "spare" time, Peggy brought her talents and enthusiasm to serve her new community. As a tireless volunteer, Peggy rose through the ranks to eventually become President of The Junior League of Raleigh, the Wake County Medical Society Alliance, and the Art Society of the North Carolina Museum of Art. The new family joined St. Michael's Episcopal Church at its inception, and Peggy shared her gifts for music in the choir, as well as her leadership in the organization of the Episcopal Church Women. One particular Sunday, Peggy was pulled over for not completely stopping at a stop sign as she hustled her family to Church. Dressed in her choir robe, Peggy pleaded for mercy with her car load of three girls in their freshly starched and ironed choir robes along with her son on his way to acolyte. The police officer must have realized she deserved a medal for her tireless effort and sent her on her way without a citation.

Dr. Manly practiced as a gifted surgeon dedicated to excellence and patient care. His gentle kindness at the bedside was well known and calmed many a patient in his years of

practice. Ike served the medical community in various societies and associations, including Chief of Surgery at Rex Hospital in 1975-1977 and President of the Medical Staff in 1979. Dr. Manly expanded his practice by inviting other graduates from the Massachusetts General Hospital to join him in Raleigh, including Dr. Preston Gada, Dr. Richard Myers and Dr. Woody Cannon. He established Raleigh Surgical Associates in 1968.

Though busy in their efforts to improve the lives of others, Peggy and Ike devoted themselves to their family. In 1961 they built a beautiful home on the edge of town where their children thrived on the edge of a quarry lake in the years before the "inner beltline."

The family grew up enjoying the benefits of the spring fed lake, which felt so much like the country but with the convenience of "in-town" living. Many of their friends thought this move was too far out of town, but their home on Lakestone Drive is now in the center of town close to the mid-town area around North Hills. Though Ike worked long hours at the various hospitals in town, he was an avid gardener. Their two-acre lot is covered with the azalea bushes and camellias he planted himself. They still reside in their home of 48 years and have been blessed with nine very special grand children.



*Dr. Isaac V. Manly and Peggy Sawyer Manly*

Summers at Atlantic Beach became a family tradition that goes back to the beginnings of their family life. Both Ike and Peggy enjoyed boating and picnics with their friends and family with a goodly amount of golf and tennis thrown in. Ike has believed firmly in making time for sports and relaxation as a balance to the weighty stresses and strains of a thriving medical practice. His family nicknamed him "Dr. Go" because he has always had so much energy. As the family grew with marriages and grandchildren, Peggy and Ike provided the resources for each child's family to spend a week together at the beach so that cousins and in-laws grew into a close-knit family unit. Fellow vacationers at Atlantic Beach knew to brace themselves for the onslaught of "Camp Manly." These celebrated times of retreat have built a strong family identity which sustains each in today's fast paced world.

Dr. Manly's practice of the healing arts pointed him to ➡

appreciate the intricacies of the human body and opened the door to his faith in God, the Creator. Throughout his life, Ike observed many miracles, both in his practice as well as his family. Ike took pains to incorporate his faith into his practice of medicine. Speaking to various medical societies about “spirituality in the surgical practice,” Ike described his special effort to create in his office a healing environment. In his talk, he explained his purpose was not to proselytize but to remove barriers and to begin the healing process. Dr. Manly was blessed to have Pat Nelson, RN and Jeanne Poole, RN, BSN by his side for 25 years, offering compassion and counting the patient’s needs above all else.

Following his retirement in 1995, Ike joined Peggy in leading the Cornerstone Bible Study, which she started in the late sixties at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Ike considers his greatest achievement to be the author of “God Made,” an examination of God’s creation for the scientific community. A second book, “Slaying the Dragon of Evolution,” formatted the material for individual or group study. Peggy and Ike have both enjoyed speaking to various groups about their faith.

Looking back over his many years in medicine, Ike once said, “In my early career I wanted to make a patient as good as he was before--later I wanted to make him better.” §

### Thinking Things Through *continued from page 13*

is appropriate for the Board’s review process to be careful, time-consuming, and definitive.

We expect legislation to revise the web posting rules in the 2009 legislative session. Please help your patients and the legislature understand our position on this complex yet important issue.

You may be relieved to know that I have reached the final topic in my speech. Here it goes. The North Carolina Medical Society has taken a renewed interest in relationships between hospitals and physicians. As you may have noticed, hospitals are buying physician practices again. In some urban areas, almost every primary care physician and many specialists are employed by the hospitals. The Medical Society is adapting in two ways: by doubling its efforts to assist employed physicians and by working to maintain the viability of private practice.

In today’s fragmented medical system, many physicians are happy to join hospital employment. The hospital can subsidize physician salaries, limit work hours, and reduce the need to cultivate a practice. Hospital employment makes it easier to move from town to town. And after all, patients are used to changing doctors from year to year.

Those of us in private practice however believe it has special benefits for the community. A private practice physician cultivates his patients one-by-one and tends to stay in the same community for an entire career. Perhaps he has a special bond with his patients. Some of us use the analogy of car mechanics, wherein the best mechanics want to

own their own shops rather than work for the dealer. But after thinking about all this, I believe the main reason that we all should want to preserve private practice is to maintain an alternative to hospital employment. If we don’t preserve the option for private practice, then we will all be at the mercy of the hospitals.

So how can we preserve the option for private practice? I believe we need to move all physicians up the economic ladder. That means primary care doctors need to offer x-rays and physical therapy. Surgeons need to do in-office surgery. You get the idea. This means we will all need to work with each other to resolve conflicts among specialties and with the hospitals.

Along these lines, the Medical Society is working to establish expertise in three areas: Medical Staff Independence, Facility Regulation, and Physician-Hospital Joint Ventures.

First, it is essential that physicians maintain independence of their Medical Staff. The Medical Staff governs the quality of hospital care, whereas the hospital administration worries about the financial bottom line. Naturally there is some overlap and inevitable conflict between the two goals. To maintain independence the Medical Staff should control its own agenda, funds, and legal advice. It should protect against hospital-controlled physicians on the medical executive committee and the peer review process. It should ensure due process in credentialing and peer-review. The North Carolina Medical Society will become

a valuable resource to hospital Medical Staffs in the future.

The Medical Society also seeks fairness in healthcare facility regulation. The Society monitors the activity of state agencies such as the Medical Care Commission, the State Health Coordinating Council, and the Division of Healthcare Facilities Regulation.

Finally, the Medical Society is developing expertise in the physician-hospital joint venture. We feel that physicians should be able to enter business arrangements with hospitals. This would represent the middle ground between private practice and hospital employment. A joint venture would align physicians and hospitals on a common mission to provide excellent patient care. However, physicians don’t ordinarily have access to the legal expertise required for a joint venture. Hospitals use our ignorance to avoid making deals. The North Carolina Medical Society is taking steps to bring the needed legal expertise to our doctors. The legal environment can work for the doctors instead of against them.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that we are all doctors caring for patients in the same way, no matter who signs our paycheck. Remember that no hospital ever cured a patient. It is the physicians working in the trenches that cure patients—so physicians need to stand together and support each other whether they are employed by the hospital or not.

Thank you again for the honor of serving as your President. §