

TEL NO. NOV 1960 11:02 NO.012 1.02

R ADAMS COWLEY, 74, DIES; PIONEER IN SHOCK-TRAUMA

R Adams Cowley, M.D., a pioneer in the treatment of victims of severe illness and injury and the father of modern trauma medicine, died of coronary failure at his home in Baltimore, MD, on Oct. 27. He was 74 years old. Cowley was the founder of the world renowned Shock Trauma Center that bears his name and founder of the State of Maryland's emergency medical system--the model for all others nationwide.

Known for his "get-things done" management style, Cowley, Professor of Thoracic Surgery and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, was internationally acclaimed for his research about the effects of shock, especially as it relates to the injured cell.

Governor of the State of Maryland, William Donald Schaefer, said of Cowley, "We have lost not only a great Marylander, but an international figure in emergency medicine. His dedication to establishing the nation's finest trauma center at the University of Maryland earned our state a reputation for medical response that is unparalleled in America," Schaefer said. "In doing so, he made Maryland--and the world--a safer place to live. Dr. Cowley was an

inspiration as a healer, in his efforts to preserve lives. There are few people in the State of Maryland who have not been touched directly or indirectly by the Cowley model of care."

Cowley's contribution to emergency medical care began in 1961, when he set up a two-bed clinical research unit at the University of Maryland Hospital devoted to the study and care of shock and trauma victims. In less than 30 years, the two hospital beds grew into a statewide emergency medical system, which includes a 50 hospital network with 10 trauma centers, 450 ambulances, an extensive communications system and a fleet of Med-Evac helicopters. Cowley served as the leader and founder of Maryland's statewide EMS service until 1989.

Today, the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, a 138 bed, \$44 million, life-saving facility at the University of Maryland Hospital in downtown Baltimore, stands as testimony to his life's work and the thousands of lives that have been saved because of Cowley's dedication. The Maryland system of treating accident victims relies on the coordination of people, communications and equipment from the accident site to the hospital, in a fine-tuned life-saving network.

The University of Maryland at Baltimore President, Errol L. Reese said "Dr. Cowley was a unique leader in the truest sense, a man who has left an indelible mark on the health care systems of our state and nation. Through his drive and determination, he established the world's leading shock trauma program and built the facilities that are unmatched for shock trauma care anywhere, which has saved thousands of lives already and will save thousands more

by serving as the model for other emergency medical centers to emulate."

"As someone who has known Dr. Cowley for more than 20 years, I have never known a more dedicated and hard-working individual," Dr. Reese said. "The campus extends our sympathy to the family and many friends of Dr. Cowley."

Cowley's rare vision brought him to realize that there was also the need for an information clearinghouse for research into trauma and analysis of health care related to trauma. In 1986, President Reagan, with a joint resolution of the 99th Congress, created The Charles McC. Mathias, Jr., National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems. Cowley was director of the National Study Center, located in Baltimore, and special advisor to Governor Schaefer for Maryland until his death.

"Dr. Cowley's passing is a great loss for the entire medical community as well as for me personally," said Morton I. Rapoport, M.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of the University of Maryland Medical System. "Dr. Cowley was a man of great vision who chose to dedicate his life and medical career to revolutionizing the treatment and care of patients suffering from severe trauma."

"I knew Dr. Cowley for almost 30 years, and I was proud to work for him and with him over those years," Rapoport said. "He inspired his co-workers with his total dedication and commitment to improving the treatment and survival of trauma victims. It is rare to find such a visionary and strong leader. We in Maryland are very fortunate that Dr. Cowley chose to pursue his life's work here. The R A. Cowley Shock Trauma Center is a tribute to Dr. Cowley's life

work."

Marvin Mandel, former Governor of the State of Maryland said, "I have never met an individual who was so totally dedicated. His determination made Maryland's shock trauma system a reality. Thousands of people here and throughout the country owe Dr. Cowley a debt of thanks."

A Utah native, Cowley trained in chest surgery at the University of Utah, the University of Michigan, and the University of Maryland, remaining at the latter after serving as Military Chief of Surgery for the Army in Mourmalon, France, and Munich, Germany, 1946-1947. A talented young surgeon, he was able to observe the 'old masters' of the time in Europe, coming to realize that many more lives were saved because of the speed with which these surgeons worked.

Because of his surgical skills and the speed of his scalpel, Cowley became one of a select few who first conducted open-heart surgery in the United States. A surgical clamp carries his name and a prototype of the electronic pacemaker created by Cowley was a constant companion to President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Cowley was bothered by the fact that even though the surgery was perfect, patients would still die. Through extensive research, Cowley determined that the longer a patient's body was in shock, the larger were his chances of dying, due to poor oxygen flow to the brain and throughout the body.

In 1961, he began studying the problems relative to shock and trauma, realizing that people could be saved if helped within one hour. Cowley later coined the term known to emergency medical

personnel as the famous, "golden hour." In the early 1970s, Cowley started transporting accident victims by helicopter so they could receive necessary care within the "golden hour." The genesis of Cowley's shock-trauma methodologies is chronicled in Shocktrauma (Franklin & Doelp, St. Martin's Press, 1980), in which Cowley said, "No one had ever set up a real system to take care of accident victims. They'd scrape you off the highway, put you in a hearse and take you to the closest hospital . . . they wouldn't be ready for you."

Trauma remains the leading cause of death in the United States for those between the ages of one and 44.

Cowley's relentless curiosity took him into emergency rooms where 'being ready' for accident victims became his obsession. He served with the committee which produced in 1966 the landmark paper "Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society," presented to the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council. These findings focused on the critical state of emergency care and set the stage for the study of trauma care and emergency medical systems nationwide. Cowley was appointed to the prestigious Army Science Board and numerous other statewide and national boards.

Among his hundreds of publications are Shock Trauma/Critical Care Handbook (1986), Trauma Care: Surgical Management (1987) and Trauma Care: Medical Management (1987). He was also instrumental in producing a variety of made-for-television programs and videos related to trauma, the most recent being the television version of the 1980 book, Shocktrauma.

He is survived by his wife, Roberta S. Cowley of Baltimore; an infant son, R Adams Cowley, II; a daughter, Kay Cowley Pace of Santa Cruz, CA; three grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. His father was the late William Wallace Cowley, a pharmacist and founder of Kowley Drug Stores, and his mother was the late Alta-Louise Adams Cowley, a businesswoman, both of Layton, Utah. Dr. Cowley was an elder in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon).

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 1400 Dulaney Valley Rd. Viewing hours will be at the church, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday, Nov. 3. Burial will be at 2:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4 at Arlington National Cemetery.

Donations can be made in Dr. Cowley's memory to the University of Maryland Foundation, Inc., for the R Adams Cowley, M.D. Fellowship, which is a research fellowship at the National Study Center for Trauma/EMS.

For more information, contact Rochelle Cohen, MIEMSS, (301) 328-3697.

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***Editors Note:** The correct spelling of Dr. Cowley's name is "R Adams Cowley" with no period after the first initial "R"

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL--Obituary, R Adams Cowley

Because of the eminence of R Adams Cowley, a number of people have responded to Dr. Cowley's death, in addition to those who have been quoted in the attached obituary. Some of these quotations

follow:

James P.G. Flynn, M.D., Director, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS) said, "Dr. Cowley was undoubtedly one of the 20th century's visionaries in the field of medicine, from his research work at the bench, to clinical work, to public health issues, to the emergency medical system. In later years, his major interests moved to rehabilitation, thus closing the loop of the individual who becomes a victim, then a patient, and then a productive member of society."

According to Joseph S. McLaughlin, M.D., Head of Thoracic Surgery at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, "Dr. Cowley was the prime force behind emergency medical systems in the United States and throughout the world. He was also one of the first, modern-day cardiac surgeons, establishing the first open heart surgery system at the University of Maryland and one of the first in the United States."

Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley (R-MD) joined with fellow Marylanders in mourning the death of Dr. Cowley. "We are fortunate to have had a man like Dr. Cowley to lead Maryland into becoming the world's key center for shock trauma medicine. Maryland certainly could not have achieved this without Dr. Cowley, who gave his whole life to serve others. His innovative and practical ideas for treating victims of massive 'cell' shock spawned medical practices that have saved untold thousands of lives in both military and civilian sectors."

Louis Goldstein, Comptroller, State of Maryland, said "We are

thankful for his outstanding work and proud of his accomplishments."

Friend and professional associate of Cowley's Jonathan E. Rhoads, M.D., board chairman of the American Trauma Society and professor of surgery, University of Pennsylvania, said, "He created the best shock trauma system of its time anywhere in the nation. He always took the position of saving those that others would think unsaveable."