

# HENRY MANKIN, MD

BY DEMPSEY SPRINGFIELD, MD

Whenever I eat breakfast I think of Henry and when I think of Henry I want coffee, a banana, and bagel for breakfast. “Breakfast with Henry” was a highlight for those of us lucky enough to attend. The things we learned from Henry. There was, of course, lots of teaching of standard orthopaedics and medicine, but there was so much more. Henry’s breadth of knowledge is so wide we never reached its end. He taught us politics, history, psychology, and humor. He would frighten the weak and challenge the strong. He would make us look at each other and ourselves in different lights.

Each six months, as a new crew arrived at the MGH, we would introduce ourselves. It was not a standard introduction. Sure, we gave our names, rank, and serial number but there would be more. Often we had to tell whom we took to our high school prom or where we attended high school. Henry would start, “I took Norma Sue Goodman to the senior prom and graduated from Taylor Allerdice High School in Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh, PA.” The date did not spawn a romance but Henry did bilateral total hip replacements on her years later. Residents did not eat at breakfast, but they did feed at the table of knowledge. Many did not know it then, but I bet later they realized how valuable “Breakfast with Henry” was in their education.

Henry was born in Pittsburgh, educated at the University of Pittsburgh (Magna Cum Laude in college), did an internship at the University of Chicago, and completed a six-month residency in Internal Medicine at that University. He defended our country for two years as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy stationed in Las Vegas, Nevada. Following that was a five-month residency in Pathology and his Orthopaedic residency at Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York City. He began his academic career at the University of Pittsburgh, returned to New York in 1966 to be Professor and Co-Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics at Mount Sinai Medical Center and Chief of Service at Hospital for Joint Diseases. In 1972 he was recruited to the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School to be the Edith M. Ashley Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chief-of-Service at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

Henry was lucky to have as his bride the former Carole Jane Pinkney. They have three children: Allison Jane, David Philip, and Keith Pinkney of whom they are rightly very proud. At last count there were three grandchildren.

Henry’s career has been dedicated to education. He educates the public, medical students, residents, fellows, orthopaedic surgeons, and physicians of all specialties. He is a master of the lecture. He makes metabolic bone disease interesting, a feat unparalleled in medical education. Those who hear his lecture on cartilage sit on the edge of their seats to catch each word. His visual effects, often having the audience participate while he demonstrates a point, are all original and help the student of any age understand better. He has taught an Instructional Course at the annual American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons meeting for decades longer than anyone else ever has, or probably ever will, and each year it gets rave reviews. He has traveled throughout

the world teaching everyone and anyone the wonders of the musculoskeletal system and the beauty of orthopaedic surgery. He has been made a corresponding or honorary member of thirteen associations for which an American orthopaedic surgeon would not otherwise be eligible. He has given the R. I. Harris Lecture for the Canadian Orthopaedic Association, the Bunnell Lecture for the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, the Sir John Charnley Lecture in England, the Sir Robert Jones Lecture at Hospital for Joint Disease in New York, and the Schiff Memorial Lecture for the American College of Rheumatology. No one teaches more, better, or loves teaching as much as Henry.

Henry's career is filled with research. His first NIH award was in 1962 and he has been funded continuously by the NIH from 1972 to 2001. He has done some of the most important work in developing what we now know about articular cartilage. He has studied bone transplantation in the laboratory and in humans. He almost single handedly reintroduced bone allograft transplantation to clinical medicine. His early work has led to a wide acceptance of bone and soft tissue transplantation. Henry continues to be active in the laboratory and continues to help us understand the musculoskeletal system better. We look forward to what he can teach us in the future.

Henry has served our profession with the energy of many. He was one of the founding members of the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society. He has served on countless committees, chaired numerous organizations, and has been the President of almost every organization to which he has belonged. He has been President of the Orthopaedic Research Society, the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, the American Orthopaedic Association, and the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society. I will not try to list all the organizations to which he has made significant contributions.

Henry has had a long, full, and distinguished clinical career. The patients who benefited from his clinical and surgical skills are too numerous to count. They were all devoted to him because he was devoted to them. He knew how to take care of their problems. He identified what was wrong and fixed it. He was consulted to care for the most complicated problems. When other orthopaedic surgeons were stumped, they called Henry. They probably will continue to do so. He was, is and always will be available. He was tireless when seeing patients. Thursdays were the days that most patients were seen in the office. It was standing room only and they waited because they knew it was worth the wait. They knew they would get the care and consideration they wanted. All of his patients will miss being able to see him as their doctor although one mother has already told me that she likes his new position because it is easier to get him on the phone. There were no operations too complex or difficult for Henry. He could do them all.

Few, if any, orthopaedic surgeons have done more for our profession. I am honored and pleased to write this dedication. I write this for all of his students who have gotten so much from Henry. We salute you Henry Mankin, MD and thank you for all you have done for us.