

Howland Award Presentation to Roland B. Scott

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It is indeed a unique honor and a distinct privilege for me to introduce my longtime mentor, Dr. Roland B. Scott, to receive the 1991 Howland Award of the American Pediatric Society. Dr. Scott is truly one of those rare "giants" in pediatric medicine. His keen intellect, his limitless energy, his focused persistence, and his capacity to recognize the really important issues that shape any major task are clearly evident through his enormous contributions to the health and welfare of children not only in the United States but also throughout the world.

Roland Scott was born in Houston, Texas, 82 years ago, to caring and nurturing parents. While his father concentrated on the operation of a small trucking business, his mother provided the encouragement and unrelenting support for his obsession for learning.

The tragic losses of an infant brother to pneumonia and a sister to septicemia during those preantibiotic days may have been significant influences on his decision to enter the field of medicine. When he later suffered the loss of his father while in medical school, his mother remained his dependable and staunch supporter before and after he received the medical degree from Howard University in 1934. After an internship in Kansas City, Missouri, Roland pursued 3 years of pediatric training at the University of Chicago. Among his distinguished mentors were Joseph Brennehan, editor of the multivolume textbook; Archibald Hoyne, the infectious diseases expert; Douglas Buchanan, the noted pediatric neurologist of that time; Frederick Schultz, then pediatric department chairman at the University of Chicago; and Bengt Hamilton of Sweden.

In 1939, Dr. Scott accepted a full-time position as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Howard University in Washington, DC. Howard University was, at that time, a small, clinically oriented medical school with very few resources and little research activity in clinical departments. At Howard, Roland was both a superb teacher and an astute clinician who soon became aware that sickle cell disease was of national significance and began to pursue its clinical and therapeutic dimensions.

By 1949, after assuming the chair at Howard, Dr. Scott equipped a small laboratory with funds from the Field Foundation of Chicago. Through additional funds generated from radio and public appeals, he was able to increase substantially research in the pediatric department and to hire a full-time physician and a part-time secretary in this effort.

It was not until 1971 that sickle cell disease was given a relatively high priority by the federal government under President Richard M. Nixon. Dr. Scott had been at the forefront of the political forces that brought this important legislation to fruition. Through his efforts, Howard University received, in 1972, one

of the early NIH Sickle Cell Center Grants, which helped to facilitate extraordinary growth in sickle cell research. At its height, the Howard Center for the Study of Sickle Cell Disease was staffed by 45 professional and support personnel and was receiving referrals from many parts of the United States and abroad. It was during these years that Dr. Scott spearheaded the founding of the International Society for the Study of Sickle Cell Disease. Representatives from South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, Canada, and Asia have attended meetings of this group for exchanges of research data and for developing health care strategies for children with hemoglobinopathies and their families. The Howard Center for Sickle Cell Disease continues to thrive today. Dr. Scott has traveled widely to every continent presenting papers, attending meetings, and fulfilling special assignments.

Roland Scott has authored and coauthored more than 250 scientific publications, which include 10 books and booklets. His 22 well-designed scientific exhibits on varied topics have been assembled at more than 100 medical meetings nationwide and viewed by tens of thousands of physicians and other health care providers. His presentations at national and international conferences and at guest professorships number more than 200.

Today, I will mention only three of his 55 major awards. In 1985, Dr. Scott was the recipient of the Jacobi Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association. Dr. Abraham Jacobi, the father of American pediatrics, was the first president of the American Pediatric Society. Also in 1985, the American College of Allergists conferred upon Dr. Scott the title of "Fellow Distinguished." This is its highest recognition. Yes, Dr. Scott is also a board-certified allergist who has made significant contributions to the study of allergic disorders in children. He personally trained scores of pediatric allergists over a period of more than 20 years in his extramurally funded fellowship program.

In 1987, Roland B. Scott was a winner of the Health Care Award sponsored by Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. This \$100,000 cash award was used to further the work in the Howard Sickle Cell Center. Incidentally, at the Chicago presentation, the then First Lady, Nancy Reagan, was a corecipient of an award for her advocacy work for children.

Roland Scott, despite his busy schedule, always found quality time with his family. His three children are here today.

Until 1989, Dr. Scott continued to pursue 12- to 16-hour days and many 7-day weeks at Howard University. Dr. Roland Boyd Scott is a most distinguished educator, scholar, and master pediatrician who will truly embellish the Howland Award that he receives today.

Note: We are sorry that the text of Dr. Scott's acceptance of the Howland Award is not available for publication.