A legacy of leadership, and a remarkable career in medicine began when C. McCollister “Mac” Evarts, ’57M (MD) ’64M (Res), was admitted to the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; a legacy grounded in a deep personal commitment to the values of his Rochester education and training. Dr. Evarts is a true visionary, inspired by the great work a group can do together, and it’s evident to anyone who has worked with him.

After graduation, an internship, one year as a surgical resident, and a two year stint in the navy, Dr. Evarts completed his residency in orthopaedics at Strong Memorial Hospital. In 1964, he joined the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, spending the next decade heading the institution’s orthopaedic residency program, ultimately serving as chair of its orthopaedic department. During this time, Dr. Evarts helped introduce total hip replacement surgery in the United States and published 75 scientific articles on a wide range of medical topics.

In 1974, Dr. Evarts returned to the University of Rochester to serve as professor and the first chair of the Department of Orthopaedics—a notable achievement in just 17 years out of medical school. He is credited with the transformation of the department into a nationally ranked center for orthopaedic research, clinical care and the education of leading physicians and scientists for orthopaedic research and clinical care. His colleagues, students, and patients have all benefited from his skills, compassion, leadership abilities, and his loyalty to the University he considers his “professional home.”

As an educator, Dr. Evarts touched the lives of all of his students in a unique way, influencing their careers, and positively impacting their personal and professional lives. His former students share and recognize the “Rochester” approach of education that Dr. Evarts passed on, instilling an excellence that has spread far and wide across the country.

“Many leaders say, ‘Do the right thing.’ For Dr. Evarts, it takes more than that. The ‘right thing’ has to embody excellence, whether it involves individual or institutional performance,” said former student Sanford Emery, M.D., MBA ’87M (Res).

Longtime friend and former colleague, Regis J. O’Keefe, M.D., Ph.D., Marjorie Strong Wehle Professor in Orthopaedics and chair of the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, credits his mentor for establishing a solid vision for the department.

“When he arrived at the University of Rochester in 1974, Dr. Evarts developed a unique culture of commitment to excellence, collaboration, scholarship, responsibility, and leadership. These continue to be the distinguishing qualities of the department today. The C. McCollister Evarts Distinguished Professorship in Orthopaedics will ensure that these values forever remain a tangible part of our program as we inspire future generations of orthopaedic surgeons, and continue to distinguish the University of Rochester.”

Julian Chang, M.D. ’83M (Res) agrees. “Everyone who has had the good fortune to be associated with Dr. Evarts has an opportunity to honor him by supporting his professorship. In turn, we will be strengthening our own legacy that was built on a reputation for excellence that Mac Evarts instilled in every graduate.”

“Splendid initiative and wonderful legacy for the person who put URMC orthopaedic surgery ‘on the map.’ He was one of the greatest influences and mentors in my life. Privileged to support!”

— BILL THORPE, M.D. ’81M (Res), A FORMER STUDENT OF DR. EVARTS, HAS MADE A GIFT TO SUPPORT THE C. MCCOLLISTER EVARTS DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIP IN ORTHOPAE(DS TO HONOR THE PERSONAL IMPACT DR. EVARTS HAD ON HIS CAREER.
Leading by Example: The C. McCollister Evarts Distinguished Professorship in Orthopaedics

Genuine. Empathetic. Loyal. Kind. Hardworking. These are some of the words people use when describing Mac Evarts. He is one of the Medical Center’s greatest leaders, exemplifying grace under pressure. The most valuable contributions of Dr. Evarts to the University and Medical Center are in his style and demonstration that leading well and living well draw on the same qualities. And whether you know him well, or you have simply crossed his path, he’s hard to forget.

Dr. Evarts is internationally recognized for his role in the development of total joint reconstructive surgery for the hip and knee, completely transforming the field of orthopaedics and improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients. He has also been recognized for his work in helping to research, develop, and document proven methods for blood clots, a potentially fatal complication that can arise after orthopaedic surgery.

In January 1987, Dr. Evarts was recruited by the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center to serve as Chief Executive Officer, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Medicine. During his tenure he revamped the medical school curriculum, initiated a M.D./Ph.D. program, tripled the size of the medical school faculty, and led the capital expansion of the Medical Center campus. In 1997, Dr. Evarts was appointed to the Institute of the National Academy of Sciences.

In January of 2003, Dr. Evarts returned to the University to serve as senior advisor to the Medical Center CEO. The following September, he was appointed to the post of senior vice president and vice provost for health affairs, and Chief Executive Officer of the University of Rochester Medical Center and Strong Health. This ushered in a period of remarkable growth for all aspects of the Medical Center—from clinical care, to research, to education, to community outreach. Dr. Evarts maintained a keen vision in his new position, recognizing how programs could grow, and maximizing a state-of-the-art treatment center for patients.

In August of 2006, Dr. Evarts was named Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Orthopaedics. Reminders of his influence and impact on the University include the the Evarts Endowed Scholarship, the Evarts Joint Center at Highland Hospital, the Evarts Lounge in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, and most recently the Evarts Orthopaedic Conference Room, as well as his support of many other important initiatives. In 2009, he received the School of Medicine’s highest alumni honor—the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

And now, adding to his extraordinary involvement and impact, Dr. Evarts has given the lead gift to establish the C. McCollister Evarts Professorship in Orthopaedics. We are asking for your help to make it a Distinguished Professorship. The inaugural recipient of the professorship will be the Director of Orthopaedic Resident Education, a true and fitting reflection of Dr. Evarts devotion to training the next generation of orthopaedic specialists.

The forward momentum of the University of Rochester has always been among Dr. Evarts’ greatest priorities. Your gift to the C. McCollister Evarts Distinguished Professorship in Orthopaedics will help ensure that we continue to lead the nation in orthopaedic education, research, and care in honor of a stellar leader, teacher, and advocate. Please join us.

“Mac has mastered the ability to derive his own personal satisfaction from the accomplishments of those around him; those whom he has taught, mentored, and supported. This is a trait that distinguishes Mac as a leader and educator, and one that we should try to emulate.”

— VINCENT D. PELLEGRINI, JR, M.D., ‘84M (Res)

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