Campbell alumni celebrate 100 years of orthopaedics in Memphis

Even though he was a visionary in the field of orthopaedics, Dr. Willis Campbell could have never imagined that the institution he began with his entry into orthopaedics in 1909 would still be such an important part of the specialty 100 years later. In April of this year, over 150 graduates of the Campbell Clinic orthopaedic training program gathered in Memphis to celebrate this historic anniversary. Participants ranged from those who completed their training in the early 1950s to those still in training and came from all over the country, including Hawaii and California. The age span and the number of years since graduation made no difference in the reminiscing and camaraderie among the Campbell alums as they shared anecdotes about their time at the Campbell Clinic. As one alum noted, “It’s like a big family reunion, only with just the family members you really like!”

Two mornings of the meeting were dedicated to scientific sessions, during which alumni and Campbell Clinic staff members exchanged ideas and experiences through formal presentations and lively discussions. Topics ranged from total joint replacement to fracture treatment to the evolving relationship between physicians and hospitals. The guest speaker for the scientific sessions was Dr. Joseph Zuckerman from New York University, who is the current president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Afternoons were free for visiting and golf and tennis tournaments. Evening social events included a rooftop party and a formal dinner at the Peabody Hotel. Special guests at the dinner were three of Dr. Campbell’s grandchildren, Frederika Carney of Tucson, Arizona, Elizabeth Rohatyn from New York City, and Bill Kent of Memphis.

“What a privilege it is to be part of such a wonderful legacy,” said Dr. Jim Beaty, chief-of-staff of the Campbell Clinic, “to know that you are connected to a group of physicians who for 100 years have dedicated their efforts to finding new and better ways to treat patients with musculoskeletal problems.”

(From left): Dr. Jim Calandruccio; Dr. Jim Beaty; Dr. Joseph Zuckerman, AAOS President; and Dr. Terry Canale.
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