



THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Harvard University

James Lyman Tullis



James Lyman Tullis was born in Newark, Ohio on June 22, 1914, the son of a minister. His initial education was completed at the Western Reserve Academy in 1932. He then obtained his A.B. degree from Rollins College in Florida in 1936 and his M.D. degree from Duke University, A.O.A., in 1940. He was admitted to the medical training program at Roosevelt Hospital in New York, NY and served from 1940 to 1942. His initial residency training was interrupted by World War II, when he joined the U.S. Army and served with the Roosevelt Hospital Unit (the Ninth Evacuation Hospital) initially in the North African campaign and subsequently in Italy and southern France.

Following his discharge from the army in 1945, he came to Boston and served as a research fellow in medicine at the Peter Brigham Hospital at the initiation of Dr. A. Baird Hastings whom Tullis had met in North Africa and had been urged at that time to contact Professor Hastings as soon as he was discharged from the service. In 1948, he joined the staff of the New England Deaconess Hospital and served at that institution for his entire professional life. He died at the Deaconess Hospital from a severe bilateral pneumonia contracted during a vacation in the south which led to his emergency transfer to Boston.

During his initial years as a fellow in the Harvard Medical School, he served in Professor Edwin Cohn's laboratory which had achieved international recognition for its fractionation of plasma which saved the lives of countless soldiers wounded in the battlefields of World War II.

In 1948, Dr. Tullis formally joined the staff of the New England Deaconess Hospital as a research fellow in pathology collaborating with Dr. Shields Warren in the study of the permeability of leukocytes, the results of which were published in the American Journal of Physiology in 1947. A review of his bibliography will reveal that this was the second in a long list of 143 publications in established journals of medicine. Over

*In tribute to their dedicated efforts to science and medicine, deceased members of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine (those at the rank of full or emeritus professor) receive a review of their life and contributions with a complete reflection, a **Memorial Minute**.*

his career in medicine, Dr. Tullis was the author of a number of significant reports on the diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering from hematological diseases including auto-immune thrombocytopenia and thrombocytopenic purpura and leukemia. He is also the author of a textbook on hemorrhagic disease.

During the next thirty years at the New England Deaconess Hospital with academic appointments at the Harvard Medical School, Dr. Tullis posted a distinguished record in three closely related areas of endeavor – as a physician and teacher, as a clinical investigator, and as an internationally respected hematologist. In 1964, a small committee of senior staff members at Deaconess Hospital was formed with the intent of unifying the various sections of the hospital under single leadership in medicine and surgery with an established executive committee. This proved to be a turning point in the history of Deaconess Hospital and Dr. Tullis continued his vigorous efforts to establish and enlarge an organization named Deaconess Medicine; this referred to a full time staff of physicians selected to provide the necessary teaching and research leading to ultimate acceptance as A qualified program at the Harvard Medical School. His formal retirement came in 1981 when Dr. Moellering succeeded him as chief of medicine and professor at the Harvard Medical School. Thus, the Deaconess was established as one of the family of teaching hospitals at Harvard in 1985 due primarily to the hard work, leadership, and tenacity shown by Dr. Tullis during these many years.

Over this period of time, Dr. Tullis' accomplishments were recognized by a number of scientific awards and honors including the Meritorious Civilian Medal from the U.S. Secretary of Defense, the Hoekten Silver Medal from the American Medical Association, the Silver Medal from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and the Katsunuma Award from the International Society of Hematology. He was a member of all the recognized medical organizations concerned with hematology and served a term as president of the American Society of Hematology. Together with several colleagues he was instrumental in establishing the Center for Blood Research which has served an important role in this broad area of scientific investigation.

In his other activities in the public area, he served on the board of trustees of Trinity Church in Boston, on the executive committee of Sherrill House and of the Lyford Cay Club in the Bahamas. His other non-medical memberships included Brookline Country Club, Chilton Club, the Thursday Evening Club and a number of other intellectual and social groups.

Dr. Tullis' wife died in 1992 and he is survived by three daughters, Dr. Virginia Latham of Harvard, Anne Pearce of Fairhope, AL, and Susan Gay Dane of Cohasset; one son, James Luther Lyman Tullis of Greenwich, CT; fourteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Respectfully submitted,

William V. McDermott, Jr.