

Dr. James B Howell, MD

1914 - 2003

Dr. James B Howell, M.D., died at his home in Dallas Texas on 28th November 2003, from pancreatic cancer at the age of 89 years. Jim Howell was a distinguished American Dermatologist who practised privately from 1946 to 1997 in Dallas, Texas. Jim was a frequent attendee at British Association of Dermatologists annual meetings, and indeed, used to attend almost on an annual basis whilst the Saturday morning sessions were devoted to clinical cases and discussion. I remember asking him some years ago, why he came year after year, and he told me quite unequivocally, that these Saturday morning sessions at the BAD were outstandingly presented and of great clinical interest. Unfortunately, he stopped attending the BAD when the Saturday morning case sessions had to be discontinued, due to increasing numbers and the use of conference facilities. In addition to attending the Saturday morning case presentations, he would attend all of the presentations by younger Dermatologists and

frequently gave them constant encouragement to continue their work. It was therefore pleasing that Jim received an Honorary foreign membership of the BAD.

In the USA, Jim did much to create the American Academy of Dermatology Skin Cancer Screening Programme in the mid 1980's. In 1994, he proposed the creation of Melanoma Monday, which became a way to remind the public to examine their skin for signs of melanoma. He received a number of awards in the USA, becoming an Honorary member of the AAD in 1993, named as Master in Dermatology in 1996 and received the Golden Triangle Award in 1997 in recognition of his role in the creation of Melanoma Monday. Dr Howell served as Vice-President and President of the American Dermatological Association. He made a number of clinical contributions, including important studies of the naevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome and focal dermal hyperplasia syndrome. Jim was a



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serious, well educated Dermatologist who possessed an insatiable request for knowledge concerning the human skin and diseases. He was indeed devoted to his patients and their interests. Jim was predeceased by his wife and is survived by a daughter, a son and two grandchildren.

Martin M Black

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