

# Edgar Cooper Person, Jr.

*April 19, 1910 — September 5, 1952*

Dr. Edgar Cooper Person, Jr. was born in Pikeville, North Carolina on April 19, 1910. He was the son of Dr. Edgar Cooper Person and Mrs. Virginia Tyson Person. He was the fourth physician in a direct line of the Person family since pre-Civil War days.

He attended the Woodbury Forest Preparatory School at Orange, Virginia. He received his A.B. degree at the University of North Carolina in 1931 and continued his studies there through the first two years of medical college. He came to Cornell University Medical College as a third year student in 1933 and graduated in 1935. Subsequently he served his surgical internship and completed his residency at The New York Hospital on December 31, 1942. He was then appointed to the senior staff and at the time of his death held the positions of Assistant Attending Surgeon in the hospital and Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in the medical school.

During his career, one of his principal interests lay in the training of the younger surgeons. Because of his untiring efforts to assist and encourage them, he enjoyed a unique position with his students and the members of the resident staff. He was recognized by his colleagues as an unusually skillful surgeon and diagnostician. In addition, he was deeply interested in experimental work, especially problems concerning the pancreas and stomach, and studies of these were published in the medical literature together with other important contributions to clinical surgery.

Dr. Person did much to consolidate the ideals of Pan-Americanism and worked to encourage the exchange of doctors for broader training. He was well known to the medical profession of Latin America for on several occasions he was invited to lecture at medical meetings and performed operations at many of the hospitals in Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Panama and Cuba. In 1948 he was a member of a special committee of the American Medical Association to survey medical facilities in the Caribbean region.

He took an active interest in Alumni affairs and was Chairman of Alumni Day in 1951. He was a member of the Planning and Building Committee for the F. W. Olin Hall, the new student residence of Cornell University Medical College.

He was an Associate Visiting Surgeon on the Second (Cornell) Division of Bellevue Hospital and was Consultant in Surgery at the Station Hospital of Mitchell Field, Air Force Base on Long Island. He was a member of the Society

of University Surgeons, New York Surgical Society, New York County Medical Society and Associate Member of the Harvey Society. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the New York Academy of Medicine. He was a member of the University Club and his academic societies were Phi Chi and Nu Sigma Nu.

He died at the New York Hospital on September 5, 1952 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Altemus Person, of New York and Upperville, Virginia, by his mother, Mrs. Edgar Cooper Person, Sr. of Pikeville, North Carolina, and three sisters, Mrs. Jack Hollister of Newbern, North Carolina, Mrs. Walter Crouch of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Mrs. Frank Kugler of Nashville, Tennessee.

In the death of Dr. Person the center has lost a friend as well as an important member of its professional staff. His participation in alumni, resident, and undergraduate activities was invaluable. His death has been felt keenly by his students and many friends throughout the institution, but particularly by his surgical colleagues. His share in the activities of the Department of Surgery, his role as a teacher of both resident staff and medical students, and his contributions to patient care can hardly be filled by others.

*Frank Glenn, R. H. Melchionna*