

The Department of Orthopaedics Sponsors the Gill Lecture at the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Orthopaedic Surgery sponsored the annual Gill Lecture at the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society on February 21, 2000. This annual lecture is in remembrance of Dr. A. Bruce Gill, an Orthopaedic Surgeon who spent much of his career at the University of Pennsylvania. After finishing medical school and residency training at Penn in the early 1900's, he served as professor of Orthopaedic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania from 1920 to 1942. He subsequently became emeritus professor of Orthopaedics, chief surgeon of the Widener Memorial Industrial School for crippled children, and medical director of the DuPont Institute for crippled children and president of the American Orthopaedic Society. While at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Gill established orthopaedic surgery as an integral part of the medical school curriculum and is credited with six original orthopaedic procedures.

Presented by John M Cuckler, MD, the Gill lecture was



Photo 1. John Cuckler, MD, guest Gill Lecturer.

titled "Technology and Total Joint Replacement: Promises and Limitations." Utilizing an impressive multimedia presentation, Dr. Cuckler sought to answer the question: Are total joint replacements effective? As he illustrated throughout his talk, the overwhelming answer to this question is yes. Not only do these procedures decrease pain, improve function, and leave patients extremely satisfied, but they are far more cost effective than the management of high blood pressure, coronary artery bypass surgery and liver transplants. The only medical intervention found to be more cost effective than total joint replacement was the treatment of pneumococcal pneumonia with oral penicillin.

Due to the vast number of joint replacements performed over the last 25 years, coupled with the fact that Americans are living longer than ever before, Dr. Cuckler stressed the increasing role that revision surgery will play in joint reconstruction surgery. In the year 2000, one in four procedures performed will be a revision surgery, and this ratio is expected to increase in the years to come. While Dr Cuckler discussed some of the technical details of revision surgery, the underlying theme that he emphasized as invaluable in successful revision surgery was thorough pre-operative planning. To best improve our results and serve our patients we need to study our failures, listen to our patients, focus on a common goal between Doctor and patient, and as Dr. Gill exhibited in his long career, never forget that the patient comes first.

Dr Cuckler is currently the Director and Professor in the Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. After undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, medical school at New York University, he completed his residency training at the University of Pennsylvania in 1979. He served as a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania before becoming the Chairman at the University of Alabama in 1994.

The Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society can be visited on the World Wide Web (www.voicenet.com/~orthop/). The monthly lecture series takes place at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia and features leaders in the field of Orthopaedics from across the country. Recent Lecturers have included William Allen, MD, Evan Flatow, MD, James Herndon, MD, Christopher Harner, MD, and Alan Jones, MD.