

In Memoriam: Dr. Paul Jagger

February 9, 2005

Leslie Franz

Dr. Paul I. Jagger, a founding member of the UCSD School of Medicine faculty and the first Medical Director of the UCSD Medical Center, died of cancer on February 4. He was 72.

Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 14 at the La Jolla United Methodist Church, 6063 La Jolla Boulevard.

A La Jolla resident and lifetime San Diegan, Dr. Jagger was born in Chula Vista and graduated from Chula Vista High School. He attended the University of Redlands, graduating magna cum laude, and received his M.D. from UCLA School of Medicine. He was a medical intern and a postdoctoral research fellow at Boston University Medical Center, completing his residency at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital (now Brigham and Women's Hospital) in 1962. He then served for two years as Ward Medical Officer at the U.S. Naval Hospital in San Diego, at the rank of Lieutenant Commander, Naval Reserve Medical Corps. He returned to Boston to complete a fellowship in endocrinology, joining Harvard Medical School as a research assistant and instructor in medicine before his recruitment to the UCSD School of Medicine in 1968.

Upon his retirement, he was recognized by the UCSD School of Medicine "for over 28 years of distinguished teaching, clinical and administrative service, and dedication to UCSD medicine."

"Paul Jagger was a founding father of the UCSD Department of Medicine," said Dr. Helen Ranney, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of Medicine. "A gifted physician who loved clinical medicine, he was the first Director of the Residency Program in Medicine at UCSD. He had a key role in planning that program and in the recruiting and training of excellent house officers. Some years later those talents were again recognized as he became the first Medical Director of the UCSD Medical Center. In his many responsibilities, Dr. Jagger was a tactful, sensitive, caring physician who respected the rights and opinions of others. His judgments were characterized by the highest ethical standards and by a remarkably clear perception of the relative importance of the issues under discussion. UCSD will remain in his debt for a very long time."

The two most important things in his life were his family and medicine. Dr. Jagger was a member of the La Jolla United Methodist Church for over 30 years. He was a lay leader and volunteered with the youth. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed cooking for his family, and taking cooking classes with his daughters. After retirement, he and his wife purchased a second home in Big Bear, where they enjoyed entertaining friends and family.

He held several leadership positions at UCSD, including Chair of the Medical Executive Committee, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at the School of Medicine, and Director of the General Clinical Research Center. He was named UCSD Medical Center's first Medical Director in 1982, a position he held until his retirement in 1996, in addition to serving as Associate Dean for Graduate Education. After his retirement he remained active as a voluntary clinical professor of medicine, also serving part time on the Internal Medicine staff of Kaiser Foundation Hospital.

Colleagues remember him as a thoughtful and fair individual who worked at establishing and maintaining positive relationships between UCSD Healthcare and the community, including the San Diego County Medical

Society and the volunteer faculty who participated in patient care and teaching. He was instrumental in expanding physician coverage of two hospitals after the opening of Thornton Hospital, and he helped spearhead the Quality Assurance Program when quality management was introduced and implemented as a formal process to improve systems and operations during the 1990s.

"Dr. Jagger created the role of medical director at UCSD Medical Center," said Sumiyo E. Kastelic, retired CEO. "It was one of the first of such positions within a San Diego hospital and, as such, he forged new territory in bringing physicians into hospital management. Dr. Jagger carried out his responsibilities with dignity and the greatest of commitment to the patients, and to UCSD's education and research missions. He was a wonderful colleague, very personable and witty, and above all, he brought a very special sense of compassion to his work and to all of us around him."

"He was a doctor's doctor, with the stature to be a leader among physicians while maintaining an active clinical practice," said Dr. Cecilia M. Smith, who succeeded Dr. Jagger as Medical Director. "His position carried significant responsibilities, and he dealt with very serious issues, but he was always respectful and sensitive, always available, and always smiling. His retirement party was well attended by physicians and staff alike, a testimony to the respect he had earned. He left big footprints to fill."

He was a member of the American Federation for Clinical Research, the American Society of Hypertension and the Endocrine Society. A member of the San Diego County Medical Society, he represented District C as a Councilor, as an Alternate Delegate to the California Medical Association, and as an American Medical Association Delegate, Medical School Section.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Trotter Jagger, who he met at the University of Redlands and married in 1955; four daughters, Pamela Jagger of Poway, Patricia Jagger of Long Beach, Karen Dodson of Riverside, and Rebecca Skov of Poway, and five grandchildren. His parents were Ivan Claude Jagger, a noted plant pathologist who conducted pioneering work in California's central valley, and Gertrude Fisher Jagger, both of New York.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations in Dr. Jagger's name to the UCSD Cancer Foundation, 9500 Gilman Drive, No. 0658, La Jolla, CA 92039-0658; San Diego Hospice, 4311 Third Ave., San Diego, CA 92103; or the La Jolla United Methodist Church Capital Fund, 6063 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla, CA 92037.

Media Contact: Leslie Franz (619) 543-6163

