

## INTRODUCTION

The 45th Annual McGuire Lecture Series has been devoted to the subject of Immunology and the Rheumatic Diseases. In this two-day period, 22 outstanding physicians in the field of immunology and rheumatology brought an up-to-date overall concept in the field of rheumatic diseases. Subjects included not only aspects of pathogenesis but also modern laboratory methods in the diagnosis of various connective tissue diseases. The remedial surgical approaches for prevention of pain and disability in rheumatoid arthritis were discussed from a practical viewpoint. This symposium was sponsored in part by the Virginia Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation as well as the Department of Continuing Education at the Medical College of Virginia. Because of the numerous papers submitted, it was decided by the editorial board to devote two issues of the MCV/Q to this series, which will include many of the papers presented at the symposium.

This year our McGuire Lecturer was Morris Ziff, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas. Dr. Ziff is a world-recognized authority on immunology and connective tissue diseases. He is a past president of the American Rheumatism Association, recipient of the Heberden Medal awarded by the Heberden Society of London, distinguished Alumni Lecturer at the New York University and the first Walter Bauer Lecturer at the Massachusetts General Hospital. As Dr. Toone so aptly remarked in his introduction, "Dr. Ziff has the ability to be firm without rancor, to use quiet humor to establish a point and above all, pre-eminent prestige without a trace element of arrogance." The first lecture which he delivered was entitled "Immunological Aspects of Rheumatoid Arthritis" and the second was "Viruses and the Connective Tissue Diseases."

The latter will be included in the second issue of the MCV/Q along with other papers in the fields of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, infectious arthritis and the more recent aspects of antigenic determinants associated with ankylosing spondylitis, psoriatic spondylitis and Reiter's syndrome.

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