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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY AT MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER

disease culminated in goiter prevention, as documented by a huge study on several thousand school girls in Akron, Ohio. His work established him as a legendary father of endocrinology of the a gold medal from the New York Medical Academy as "the outstanding man of science in the medical profession in America" but the Nobel Award, which he probably richly deserved, eluded him.

During his long tenure at Montefiore (1919-1946), Marine was in charge of clinical laboratories and conducted extensive animal research with special interest in endocrine disorders. One of Marine's students and co-workers was Dr. Henry Jaffe whose work on the relationship of parathyroid hormone to bone abnormalities led to his international recognition as a paramount bone pathologist. Marine collaborated with Dr. Sam Seidlin in the first treatment of metastatic thyroid carcinoma by radioactive iodine, published in 1946. As a consequence of this paper, Montefiore became a major referral center for treatment of thyroid disorders. Not coincidentally, the heads of the Endocrine Division at Montefiore became leaders in the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid disorders. Marine retired to

his farm in Pennsylvania, whence his French-Huguenot family originated and died there in 1976 (2). In 1980, on the 100th anniversary of his birth, the American Society of Endocrinology held a major symposium in his honor. A David Marine professorship was established at Johns Hopkins in 1985.

Between the two world wars, and more so after the conclusion of World War II, the character of Montefiore was rapidly changing. Under the guidance of Dr. E.M.Bluestone and his successor Dr. Martin Cherkasky, Montefiore became a general hospital. All clinical specialties (except for obstetrics) were represented and headed by distinguished physicians and surgeons.

In 1946, Marine was replaced by Dr. Harry Zimmerman (1901-1995), whose colorful life and deeds are deserving of the attention of medical historians (Fig. 2). Zimmerman, born in Russia, was brought to the United States as a

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young child. He was raised in New Haven, Connecticut and graduated from Yale and its Medical School in 1927. Zimmerman is considered to be the founder of American neuropathology, having first studied this nascent discipline in Munich, Germany in the 1930s under the renowned psychiatrist and self-taught neuropathologist, Walter Spielmeyer. Upon Zimmerman's return, Milton Winternitz, Chairman of Pathology at Yale, helped him to set up the first laboratory of neuropathology in the United States. Zimmerman was the first to expand the study the induction of malignant gliomas in mice by chemical carcinogens. Working with the founders of the American nutritional sciences, Osborne and Mendel, he described the effects of beri-beri and other vitamin deficiencies on the central nervous system. He also performed diagnostic service functions for the emerging speciality of neurosurgery, becoming friendly with the famous Harvey Cushing who had moved to Yale after his retirement from Harvard.

During the years of World War II, Zimmerman, while serving in the Navy in the Pacific theater of war and as a member of a Medical Research Unit based on Guam, made several important observations on the high frequency of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in the Chamorro natives. On Okinawa, he worked with Dr. Albert Sabin, the future discoverer of a polio vaccine, on a vaccine against Japanese B encephalitis.

Zimmerman accepted the position at Montefiore when he was not selected as Winternitz' successor at Yale and because, in keeping with his primary interest, the hospital still harbored a significant number of patients with neurologic disorders. He was instrumental in further strengthening neurology, neurosurgery, and neuropathology by attracting to Montefiore Dr. Houston Merritt, a renowned Harvard neurologist and future chairman at Columbia, and the neurosurgeon, Leo Davidoff, a student of Cushing's. Still, Zimmerman took very seriously his role as director of laboratories, showing his exceptional administrative talents.

Because many physicians discharged from the Armed Forces were anxious to pursue their education, Zimmerman was able to attract outstanding residents, some of whom had prior training in internal medicine. Among the most distinguished graduates of the Department were James Berkman, future chair of Pathology at the newly created L.I. Jewish Hospital, Robert Terry, future Chairman of Pathology at the AlbertEinstein College of Medicine, Pasquale Cancilla, the future chair of Pathology at UCLA, Kevin Barron, the future chair of Neurology at the Medical School in Albany, N.Y., Philip Lieberman, the

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future Chief of Surgical Pathology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Nicholas Gonatas, future director of neuropathology at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. When Zimmerman arrived at Montefiore, his responsibilities included clinical laboratories and anatomic pathology. Among the distinguished members of clinical laboratories were: Dr. Jacques Singer, the inventor of the latex test, who became the head of microbiology and immunology. Dr. Ilya Spigland, a student of Sabin's, set up one of the first laboratories of diagnostic virology.

In the 1950s, the workload in anatomic pathology consisted mainly of a large number of autopsies (600 to 800/per year) and a modest number of surgical samples (2000/per year, growing later to about 6,000 a year). Assisting Zimmerman in coping with this material were one or two attending pathologists, assisted by 16 to 18 residents, some of whom were rotating from clinical departments. James Berkman, assisted or followed by John Gruhn, Lucretia Allen, and Richard Torack were in charge of anatomical pathology. In 1962, as the volume of surgical material increased, Dr. Norwin Becker, who trained and performed significant research at Einstein and Montefiore, became the Chief of surgical pathology. Assisted by Drs. Irving Soifer, Rachel Morecki, and Sumi Mitsudo, he coped with the

ever increasing volume of surgical and cytologic material. The numerous autopsies were performed under the supervision of Jack Hasson, assisted by Leonarda Sablay. A grant from the National Library of Medicine allowed Dr. Hasson to create a series of films on performance of autopsies.

In neuropathology, Zimmerman's area of special interest, he was initially assisted by Martin Netzky, followed by Robert Terry in the late 1950s, and Lucien Rubinstein (1963-1967), who moved to the University of Virginia and became an internationally recognized expert on tumors of the central nervous system. Zimmerman formed a close association with Asao Hirano, who was assisted by Nitya Ghatak, who later became the Chief of Neuropathology at the Virginia Commonwealth University, and by Josefina Llana.

The acquisition of an electron microscope in the 1950s offered new research opportunities. This enabled the description, by Hirano, of a number of ultrastructural observations on the central nervous system. These included the elucidation of various forms of cerebral edema and the way in which the myelin sheath is formed. Later, an organelle that is known today as Hirano body was reported. Under the auspices of the National Institutes of Health, Hirano pursued some of

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Zimmerman's research in Guam on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Parkinson-dementia complex. The contributions of Zimmerman and Hirano to our knowledge of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis were acknowledged in an article on Lou Gehrig's disease in 1990 in the New Yorker Magazine. During his tenure of office and his subsequent retirement, over 700 papers and 20 books on various aspects of neuropathology were published by Zimmerman and his associates, mainly Hirano.

Over the years, the neuropathology program attracted several hundred fellows, many from Japan, who subsequently became chairs of departments of neurology, neuropathology and neurosurgery upon their return to their native countries. In 1973, Zimmerman, and in 2001, Hirano, were honored by medals from the Emperor of Japan. Zimmerman's contributions were also recognized by a Gold-Headed Cane Award from the American Society of Experimental Pathology.

An important event during Zimmerman's early tenure was the creation of a new medical school, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, with Jacobi Medical Center as its teaching hospital. Zimmerman, on a leave of absence from Montefiore, was the first acting Dean of the fledgling medical

school. It was he who persuaded Albert Einstein to lend his name to the enterprise. Zimmerman was instrumental in attracting a distinguished faculty to the medical school and in setting up an affiliation between the medical school and Montefiore Medical Center that thus became the primary voluntary teaching institution of the new medical school (1963). The relationship between the medical school and Montefiore was at times stormy.

Zimmerman stepped down as Chair in 1973 but remained active at Montefiore until his death at the age of 94. Upon Harry Zimmerman's retirement, Dr. Leopold G. Koss was appointed Chairman at Montefiore and Professor and Co-Chair at Einstein (Fig. 3). Koss, a native of Poland, spent nearly 20 years at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as Attending Pathologist and Chief of the Cytology Service. Prior to joining the Montefiore/Einstein faculty, he was for three years the Pathologist-in-Chief at Sinai

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Hospital in Baltimore. During this time, he was named Professor of Pathology at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and Clinical Professor of Pathology at the University of Maryland Medical School. His major scientific interests were cancer of the bladder and of organs of the female genital tract, such as the uterine cervix and the endometrium.

With Koss' arrival at Montefiore, and in keeping with the needs of the Hospital, there was a major expansion of diagnostic services and research. The Department's first functional pathology/cytology database and reporting system was established in 1975. A close association with the laboratories at the North Central Bronx Hospital was established. Drs. John Li, Gerald Bezahl, and Eun Sook Kim became active members of the faculty. The activities of the autopsy service and surgical pathology were combined under Dr. Becker and a major cytopathology service was created. In 1985, the Pathology faculty was joined by Dr. Howard Dorfman, a world class consultant in bone and soft tissue pathology. Dorfman also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. John McKittrick replaced Dr. Jacques Singer as a head of microbiology. Joan Uehlinger became the head of the Blood Bank and Herbert Rose of biochemistry.

In cytopathology, Koss was ably assisted by his senior associate, Dr. Klaus Schreiber, and a growing number of more junior staff. The Cytology program attracted a large number of first-class fellows, many of whom became heads of their own laboratories in nearly all teaching institutions in the Greater New York area and elsewhere. Among them were: Drs. Harry Mousouris (St. Vincent's Hospital), David Burstein (Mount Sinai), Joan Cangiarella (NYU), Diane Hamele-Bena (Columbia), Rana Hoda (Medical University of South Carolina), Ricardo Bardales (Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN), and Mark Suhrland (Montefiore) who brought to the Department as a fellow, Aspiration Cytology, a newly developed procedure from the Karolinska Hospital. Mark Sherman, now at NIH, became a distinguished investigator of cervix cancer. Koss, a polymath in pathology, who had been present at the beginning of cytology's renaissance, enriched the specialty by close correlation of cytology with surgical pathology. Most importantly, he participated in the development and application to cytology of the newly emerging fields of histochemistry, image analysis, flow cytometry, cytogenetics, and molecular biology. Significant work was also done on human papillomaviruses. Koss brought considerable grant-supported research to Montefiore and attracted a number of outstanding young and enthusiastic co-workers from the United States and abroad. Among the leading

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investigators associated with these enterprises were Fritz Herz, Robert Wolley, and Robert Wersto and Bogdan Czerniak. Among other fellows and guests from abroad were Isao Nakanishi from Japan, Stan Woyke, W. Olszewski, and Wen Domagala from Poland, Antonio Almada Horta from Brazil, Huseyin Baloglu from Turkey, Annarosa DelMistro and Lucio Palombini from Italy, Yuri Batoroiev from Russia and numerous other guests from other countries. Most of these people returned to their native lands and achieved high professional standing and many honors. Several major books and over 300 papers and presentations at national and international meetings continued the tradition of the Montefiore Department of Pathology as a leading scholarly department in the United States. Koss' work was repeatedly recognized by numerous honors. He received a Gold Headed Cane Award from the American Society of Experimental Pathology. Montefiore was one of only a few Departments to have had more than one member so recognized. Koss became an Honorary Fellow of

the Royal College of Pathologists (U.K.), member of the German Academy of Scientists (Leopoldina), and Dr. h.c. from the Pomeranian Academy of Medicine. He also gave a number of distinguished name lectures and received numerous medals and other distinctions, among them the Officer of the Order of Merit of the Polish Republic. Towards the end of Koss' tenure as Chairman, the ever closer relationship of the Hospital and Medical School Departments culminated in their academic unification. In 1993, Koss stepped down as Chairman in favor of Bruce H. Wainer, M.D., Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. During his short term of office, Wainer fleshed out the details and problems of combining the Montefiore and Einstein campuses. He also unified all clinical laboratories under the aegis of the Department of Pathology. Wainer attracted as his vice-chair Michael B. Prystowsky, M.D., Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania who succeeded him as chair in 1995.

Compiled by: Leopold G. Koss and Norwin H. Becker (March 2006)

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