A New Endowed Scholarship Honors a Lifelong Love of Medicine

JULIUS SCHWARTZ, M.D., CLASS OF 1933

A physician known for his keen intellectual curiosity and his lifelong love of medical practice, Dr. Julius Schwartz was one of our medical school's oldest graduates when he died a few weeks before his 92nd birthday in September of this year. Dr. Schwartz transferred from New York University to Syracuse University after his freshman year of college, receiving both his BA and MD degrees from Syracuse University, a precursor to Upstate Medical University. After completing his internship and residency in New York City, he entered practice in 1946 as an internist and cardiologist in Brooklyn, New York, where he served as attending at both Maimonides and Coney Island hospitals, and an adjunct assistant professor of clinical medicine at Downstate Medical School. He was also a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Cardiology. Dubbed the “Reading Doc” by U.S. Army comrades, Dr. Schwartz approached writing with the same enthusiasm, and although his focus was always on clinical practice rather than research, he authored articles in the New England Journal, JAMA, and the Journal of Medicine. He was an early expert in Familial Mediterranean Fever, an inflammatory disease that afflicts primarily Jews of Sephardic descent.

Reluctant to abandon medicine even in "retirement," Dr. Schwartz opened a new practice at the age of 66 in Hollywood, Florida, where he was affiliated with Hollywood Memorial Hospital until he retired in earnest in 1983. His widow, Louise Judith Schwartz, and his daughter, Susan Schwartz McDonald, have memorialized his contribution to patients and colleagues with an endowed scholarly award for a talented third-year medical student at Upstate who intends to pursue cardiology.