



## Editorial

## Tribute to Dr. Ronald D. Miller: A legacy of excellence in anaesthesiology

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*"It's still of prime importance  
to think big and dream"*

---Dr. Ronald D. Miller---

Dreams can inspire individuals to achieve what may seem impossible to the rest of the world. Powerful dreams have fuelled the passion of renowned figures across decades. Dr. Ronald D. Miller was one such visionary who dreamt bigger than life itself and dedicated his entire life to turning those dreams into reality.<sup>1</sup> His name is now synonymous with

anaesthesia and will echo forever in this vast and holistic medical specialty, which spans from perioperative services to the care of critically ill patients, all aligned with the noble aim of alleviating pain.<sup>1,2</sup> Dr. Miller's vision to advance the field of anaesthesiology led to remarkable research and innovations, making him the face of anaesthesia. His legacy will forever be etched in the minds of anaesthesiologists worldwide. Sadly, as the world mourn the loss of this great soul, it is essential to reflect upon his glorious journey and pay homage to his perseverance and dedication to the field of anaesthesia.<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Miller grew up 90 miles from Chicago at Notre Dame near South Bend, Indiana. He completed his undergraduate and medical education at Indiana University, followed by an internship at Riverside County Hospital in Southern California.<sup>1,3</sup> In 1965, he completed his residency in anaesthesia at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where he also earned a master's degree in pharmacology. From 1968 to 1970, Dr. Miller served as a staff anaesthesiologist in the U.S. Navy at Da Nang Naval Hospital.<sup>4</sup> During this time, he conducted pivotal research on blood transfusions and was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat V for his distinguished service.<sup>4,5</sup>

In 1970, Dr. Miller joined UCSF as an Assistant Professor in Anaesthesia and Pharmacology. He was soon promoted to Associate Professor in 1974, and to Professor in 1978. From 1982 to 1984, he served as Vice Chairman of the Department of Anaesthesia, before becoming Chairman, a position he held from 1984 until June 2009.<sup>1,3,4</sup>

Dr. Miller's tenure as Editor-in-Chief of *Anaesthesia & Analgesia* began in 1991, succeeding Dr. Nicholas M. Greene. Being a great visionary leader, he introduced the concept of subspecialty sections within the journal, essentially creating "journals within a journal." These sections, managed by their respective specialty societies, greatly expanded the journal's scope and readership.<sup>1</sup> The Society of Cardiovascular Anaesthesiologists was the first to affiliate with the journal, followed by the Society for

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Paediatric Anaesthesia, the Society for Ambulatory Anaesthesia, the Society for Technology in Anaesthesia, the International Society for Anaesthetic Pharmacology, the American Society of Critical Care Anaesthesiologists, and the Society for Obstetric Anaesthesia and Perinatology.<sup>4</sup> This initiative not only broadened the journal's research areas but also increased the area and scope of research for global engagement. Dr. Miller's international vision for the journal was realized through a threefold increase in international editorial board members and the launch of Chinese and Spanish versions of the journal. He dedicated 15 years of service to the journal before passing on the torch of academic excellence in 2006.<sup>1,4</sup>

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Miller received numerous recognitions and honours. In 2007, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the American Society of Anaesthesiologists. He held various prestigious roles, including Chair of the National Institutes of Health Surgery, Anaesthesia, and Trauma Study Section, and was awarded honorary fellowships and memberships from anaesthesia societies in South America, Australia, Asia, and Europe.<sup>3,4</sup> In 2008, Dr. Miller delivered the renowned Emery A. Rovenstine Memorial Lecture, where he spoke on the 'Pursuit of Excellence'.<sup>3</sup>

One of Dr. Miller's most enduring legacies is his role as the editor and author of *Miller's Anaesthesia*. He edited eight editions of this seminal textbook, widely regarded as the "Bible of Anaesthesia." He also co-edited *Basics of Anaesthesia* with Robert K. Stoelting.<sup>1</sup> In addition to his textbooks, Dr. Miller's groundbreaking work in neuromuscular blocking drugs is a notable highlight of his research. His name is forever linked with the pharmacology of neuromuscular blocking agents, and his contributions have significantly influenced clinical practice in anaesthesia.<sup>6</sup>

Describing the immense impact of Dr. Miller in mere words is a challenge. His work reshaped the very landscape of anaesthesia. He was a remarkable academician, scientist, mentor, author, clinician, and innovator, excelling in all these roles simultaneously.<sup>1,4</sup> As we bid farewell to this extraordinary individual, it becomes our duty to honour and uphold the legacy he has left behind. Every anaesthesiologist is entrusted with the responsibility of building upon the solid foundation he established with his diligence. Carrying forward his ideas and ideals in our pursuit of advancing anaesthesia will undoubtedly be the most meaningful tribute to his life's work and his invaluable contributions to the field.

## 1. Conflict of Interest

None.

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