



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Menkes was expert on inherited metabolic diseases

The neurologist who discovered maple syrup urine disease and X-linked kinky hair disease (Menkes disease), **John Menkes, M.D., M.S., FAAP**, of Los Angeles, died Nov. 22 of complications from cancer. He was 79.

An early researcher of maple syrup urine disease as an intern at Boston Children's Hospital, Dr. Menkes and colleagues published the first paper on the disease in *Pediatrics* in 1954.

In 1952, he earned his M.D. from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; he completed an internship and residency at Children's Medical Center, Boston in 1952-'54.

After serving as chief of the pediatric section at Pepperrell Air Force Base in Newfoundland and pediatric consultant to the North East Air Command during the Korean War (1954-'56), Dr. Menkes returned to New York City for a residency at Bellevue Hospital, New York University, from 1956-'57. From 1957-1960, he was a resident in pediatric neurology at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center's Neurological Institute of New York.

Dr. Menkes joined the staff at Johns Hopkins in 1960, became head of its Division of Pediatric Neurology (1964-'66), then moved to University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) to establish and serve as head of the first pediatric neurology division at UCLA (1966-

'70). He remained there while also serving as director of pediatric neurology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center (1997-'99). Most recently, he was professor emeritus of neurology and pediatrics at UCLA and director emeritus of pediatric neurology at Cedars-Sinai.

From 1970-'76, Dr. Menkes was a *Pediatrics* editorial board member. He authored the textbook *Child Neurology* in 1974 and co-edited six subsequent editions.

"He was a gifted clinician and humanitarian who saw children from around the world with some of the most complex disorders," said Bernard L. Maria, M.D., M.B.A., FAAP, who co-authored later editions of *Child Neurology* with Dr. Menkes. "He took time to provide answers and develop detailed treatment plans for affected children, but he was deeply saddened by having to share bad news with loving parents."

Dr. Menkes received the Child Neurology Society's Hower Award in 1980 and was a member of the Society for Pediatric Research, the American Pediatric Society and the American Academy of Neurology.

He authored three novels and three plays that were produced in Los Angeles. He is survived by his wife, Myrna, three children, two stepchildren and a granddaughter.