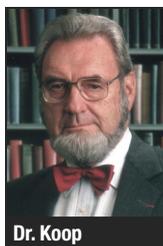




In Memoriam

Dr. Koop, pioneering pediatric surgeon, famed surgeon general



Dr. Koop

C. Everett Koop, M.D., Sc.D., FAAP, a pioneering pediatric surgeon and influential U.S. surgeon general whose advocacy helped many Americans quit smoking and take precautions against AIDS, died Feb. 25 at age 96 in Hanover, N.H.

An AAP Emeritus Fellow, Dr. Koop was a charter member of the AAP Section on Surgery, present at its first meeting in 1948. In 1976, Dr. Koop received the section's William E. Ladd Medal. He later served on AAP committees on accident prevention and cancer.

Dr. Koop, surgeon general (1981-'89) under President Ronald Reagan and briefly under George H.W. Bush, used his bully pulpit to speak out on public health issues, including childhood obesity and injury prevention. He also displayed "visionary leadership" for children with special health care needs, according to Calvin C.J. Sia, M.D., FAAP, who first promoted the medical home.

When discussing topics like AIDS prevention, he relied on science rather than party lines. And his anti-tobacco messages hit home to many, especially teens.

Dr. Koop, who separated several sets of conjoined twins, helped launch the field of pediatric surgery and co-founded the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*. In addition, he led the charge to set up pediatric intensive care units and petitioned the American Board of Surgery for the certification exam in pediatric surgery.

Dr. Koop was a 1937 graduate of Dartmouth College, received his M.D. from Cornell Medical College in Manhattan in 1941 and completed residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He was surgeon-in-chief at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for more than 30 years.

Dr. Koop was an effective public health servant who listened to all positions but never faded from his fundamental positions, noted Moritz Ziegler, M.D., FAAP, a mentee who interviewed him for his AAP oral history, <http://www2.aap.org/moc/loadsecure.cfm/oralhistory/Koop.pdf>.

"I think even his dissenters ... would say today he's the kind of surgeon general we only dreamed we could have had," Dr. Ziegler said.

Dr. Koop is survived by his second wife, Cora; children Allen, Norman and Elizabeth Thompson; and eight grandchildren.

—Alyson Sulaski Wyckoff