

OBITUARY: Haley, Leonor Davidson



Dr. Leonor Davidson Haley, 75, died May 19, 1996, after a long illness. Dr. Haley was a friend to anyone involved with medical mycology in the clinical laboratory regardless of the size of the laboratory or number of specimens processed. Dr. Haley was tireless in her training efforts for all medical laboratory personnel; medical technologists, microbiologists, dermatologists, pathologists, etc. She taught numerous field courses in medical mycology which were based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) curriculum and research, and wrote training manuals and manuscripts. She was a consultant to anyone who needed help with medical mycological problems.

Dr. Haley developed the first audio-tutorial course in general medical mycology at the CDC. This training procedure allowed her to reach many more laboratory workers than she could with home-based studies and field lectures. However, the tutorial procedure did not distract from her other responsibilities. This teaching

strategy was so successful that she developed a tutorial course for the isolation and identification of systemic fungal pathogens, and another course designed to teach dermatologists the necessary tenets of mycology essential for their certification and for daily use in their office practice.

Dr. Haley, a medical technologist by training, received her Ph.D. from Duke University in 1949. She left Duke to take a teaching and research position at Yale University Medical School, as the first woman in the Department of Microbiology, where she remained for 17 years. She was recruited to become the Mycology Training Branch Chief, CDC, Atlanta, Georgia in 1968; a position she held for 20 years until retirement. While at CDC she held joint appointments at Emory University Departments of Dermatology and Pathology for 18 years.

During her professional career of over 35 years, Dr. Haley was a member of a number of professional societies in which she held many offices. Among these was Sigma Xi, an honorary organization for promotion of research in science, American Association of the Advancement of Science and Who's Who in American Women. She was a pioneer in clinical mycology and is recognized internationally for her excellence in teaching and research.

We feel extremely fortunate in having had the opportunity to work and train with Dr. Haley. Through the years we developed a personal, as well as professional relationship. Her knowledge and friendship will be missed by many.

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