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*Surgery as Science – Surgery as Humanism*

My professional life has been primarily spent caring for patients. Teaching and research have also been prominent. After graduating from medical school during World War II, I was randomly assigned to a military hospital in the United States that cared for battle casualties from the European, African and Pacific theatres. Treating a young aviator burned in a crash flying from Burma to China (when the U.S. was helping China in the war against Japan) gave me my first experience in using tissues from a dead person as a life-saving measure. This experience directed my professional activities.

After three years of Army surgery, I joined a group of physicians studying kidney transplantation at Harvard Medical School. Working in the surgical research lab, I developed techniques of transplantation in mice, rabbits and dogs. In 1954, we performed the world's first successful human kidney transplant between identical twins. Five years later, in 1959, we successfully transplanted a human kidney from a cadaver. Our team consisted of clinicians and basic scientists working toward a common goal. For this, I was recognized by the Nobel Committee and awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1990.

Transplantation of other organs by other investigators rapidly followed (i.e. liver, heart, pancreas, lung, heart/lung, and intestines). By the early 1970's, transplantation was being performed worldwide. At that time, I decided to move away from transplantation and, instead, concentrated on my original surgical passion – reconstructive surgery. This included craniofacial problems (congenital, traumatic or neo-plastic) in children and adults. Just as organ transplantation required knowledge of biochemistry and immunology, craniofacial problems required interaction with basic genetics and embryology.

During my surgical career of over 50 years, surgery has evolved from excision, reconstruction and transplantation to inductive surgery. These advances required the understanding and contributions of both basic scientists and clinical scientists, confirming Pasteur's dictum, "There is only one science. Basic and clinical science are closely joined as the trunk of a tree is to its branches."