



SCA Oral History Series

Interview of Dr. Jerry Reves, SCA President 1979 – 1981

Dr Reves is an unusually accomplished anesthesiologist. His focus throughout his career has been research, mentorship, and leadership. He made great contributions in each arena: an early Chief of Cardiac Anesthesia, the first elected SCA President, Chair at Duke, then Director of Duke Heart Center, and finally Dean at the Medical College of South Carolina where he is now Emeritus Professor. He has a wonderful perspective on our subspecialty and cardiac care in general. Dr. Reves set an example that is an inspiration to young faculty.

The interview begins with his early life and research experiences that shaped his choice to enter medicine and cardiovascular anesthesiology. Dr. Reves' early medical training was at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) and later at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He gives a brief history of a few prominent figures in medicine he associated with and of his training during the Berry Plan. While he was the President of SCA Dr. Reves organized the first committees and added much of the society's structure. The early focus was on education to support the many general anesthesiologists being asked to perform in this new specialty. After his SCA presidency he was the Chair of the Education, Research, and later Publication Committees. He discusses the evolution from a monograph publication used for education to the eventual affiliation with Anesthesia and Analgesia as the official journal for the society. Finally, he discusses his time at Duke, leadership development and his emphasis on research. The best parts of his career have been seeing those he has associated with grow, mentees become their own person, and especially to see them succeed. The interview concludes with his advice about considering cardiac anesthesiology as a career, and the future of the SCA.