
In memoriam

JESSE E. THOMPSON, MD

Department of Surgery, Baylor University Medical Center

Dr. Jesse Thompson, a pioneer in vascular surgery who served as chairman of surgery at Baylor University Medical Center from 1982 to 1986, died on February 25, 2008, at the age of 88. Dr. Thompson graduated with honors from Harvard Medical School in 1943 and completed his surgical training at Massachusetts Memorial Hospital. During World War II, Dr. Thompson was chief of neurosurgery at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Afterwards, with his deferred Rhodes scholarship plus a Fulbright scholarship and a Rockefeller grant, he studied cardiovascular physiology at Oxford University. Dr. Thompson was a faculty member at Boston University School of Medicine for 4 years before coming to Dallas and Baylor in 1954. In 1957, he performed Dallas' first carotid endarterectomy for stroke. Several years later, he began Baylor University Medical Center's

fellowship program in vascular surgery, which has trained more than 90 surgeons; the fellows established the Jesse E. Thompson Vascular Society in his honor. In 1988, after his retirement as chief of surgery, his peers established the Jesse Eldon Thompson Surgical Education and Research Endowment, and a library was dedicated in his honor in 1991. Outside of Baylor, Dr. Thompson was a leader in more than 18 medical and surgical societies, serving as president of the Dallas County Medical Society, the Texas Surgical Society, the Society for Vascular Surgery, and the International Society for Cardiovascular Surgery. Throughout his career, he served on numerous editorial boards and published more than 175 articles. Based on his extensive contributions to the field of vascular surgery, he was one of 37 surgeons featured in the book *Band of Brothers: Creators of Modern Vascular Surgery*.