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## International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics

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## IN MEMORIAM

## Professor Louis Gerald Keith, 1935–2014



The FIGO family was greatly saddened by the untimely death of Louis G. Keith, MD PhD, who was an Associate Editor Emeritus of the *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* (IJGO)—the official journal of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO). Professor Keith, who was 79 years of age, died in Chicago on July 6, 2014, after a short illness with a urologic cancer.

Professor Keith was a Professor Emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology at the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University in Chicago. He joined the Northwestern faculty in 1975 and for 29 years served as the Director of Undergraduate Education and Medical Student Affairs in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern. During this period of time he was responsible for the education and mentoring of over 5000 Northwestern medical students who completed their undergraduate medical clerkship in obstetrics and gynecology under his direction. Many of his students also worked under Dr Keith's supervision on scholarly projects, and along with his students and colleagues he published more than 175 articles in important journals.

In addition to his academic and scholarly activities at Northwestern he also held a position as Adjunct Professor of Maternal and Child Health at the University of Alabama School of Public Health in Birmingham, Alabama, and was an Affiliate Professor at the College of Public Health of the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida.

Dr Keith, who himself was an identical twin, became interested in multiple gestation in his academic career and became an international expert in the field of twins and multiple gestation. His textbook on multiple pregnancy was the first classic textbook in the field and is still regarded as an important international reference. Because of his interest

in the subject, Dr Keith was a frequent lecturer on multiple pregnancy and was often consulted by the media to comment on the topic, particularly when the epidemic of multiple pregnancies began to appear in the 1990s as a result of artificial reproductive technologies.

Later in his career Dr Keith became interested in the subject of postpartum hemorrhage, particularly because of its impact on maternal mortality in low-resource countries. He was the co-editor of the first textbook on postpartum hemorrhage and in recent years he spent considerable time and effort talking on the topic, both in industrialized and in low-resource countries, in an effort to educate practitioners with the eventual hope of reducing maternal mortality due to hemorrhage.

Dr Keith completed his medical degree at the Chicago Medical School in 1960 and his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago in 1964. Before joining the faculty at Northwestern Dr Keith was a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Chicago Medical School and at the Cook County School of Medicine. In 2002 he received a PhD at the Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poznan, Poland. He was a frequent visitor to Poland and published many papers with his Polish colleagues. As a result of his contributions to academic obstetrics and gynecology in Poland he was awarded the Golden Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland, and in 2007 he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science by the Medical Academy of Lublin, Poland.

Professor Keith was an elected member and/or fellow in many societies, including the Royal Society of Medicine of the UK, the American College of Surgeons, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Over the years he received 21 awards for his scientific work and achievements, and in 1995 he was named "Distinguished Alumnus" of the Chicago Medical School.

Dr Keith's primary activity with the IJGO began in the 1990s when I asked him to become a member of the Editorial Board and to become my Assistant Editor. At that time I was President of FIGO and Editor of IJGO simultaneously, and I realized that I needed editorial help because of the increasing number of manuscripts that were being submitted. In the years that he served on the Editorial Board, first as an Assistant Editor and then as an Associate Editor, he and I edited every paper that was published in the Journal, and his editorial skill and efforts helped greatly to make the Journal successful and to be regarded as a leading international scientific publication in the field. The work of editors is often unappreciated and I should like to take this opportunity to indicate that Dr Keith's editorial contributions to IJGO were selfless and truly exceptional. He was a superb editor.

Dr Keith was an outstanding educator and scholar during his long academic career and his academic activities continued up until his final days. Even during the latter part of his illness he was talking about the possibility of attending an international congress of obstetrics and

gynecology in the Ukraine and he was working on a chapter on postpartum hemorrhage for the FIGO World Report on Women's Health that will be released at the time of the FIGO Congress in Vancouver, Canada, in 2015.

Professor Louis Keith was a true friend to many of us in the FIGO community and he will be remembered by all of us who knew him. We will remember him as a charismatic speaker and as a knowledgeable international expert on both twins and postpartum hemorrhage. His legacy will remain in his many scholarly publications and textbooks. His memory will remain with us for a long time to come. He will be greatly missed at Northwestern and by the international obstetrics

and gynecology community. He was survived by his twin brother 45 Donald Keith.

John J. Sciarra  
FIGO President 1991-1994,  
Editor Emeritus, *International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics*,  
Chicago, IL, USA  
E-mail address: [jsciarra@northwestern.edu](mailto:jsciarra@northwestern.edu)