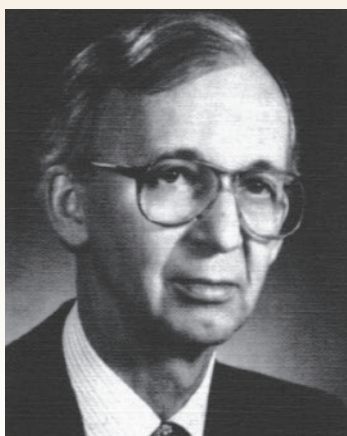


Richard D. Rowe Memorial Lecture

Presented by Kei Takahashi, M.D., Ph.D.
Toho University Ohashi Medical Center



Richard D. Rowe, M.D.
(1923–1988)

1988: Takao Atsuyoshi, M.D.
RoseVera, M.D.
1991: Anton E. Becker, M.D.
1999: Soichiro Kitamura, M.D.
2001: Tetsu Yamaguchi, M.D.
2005: Brian W. McCrindle, M.D.
2008: Masahiro Ishii, M.D.
2012: Shunichi Ogawa, M.D.
2015: Etsuko Tsuda, M.D.
2018: Yoshihide Mitani, M.D.
2021: Kei Takahashi, M.D.

Richard D. Rowe had a remarkable academic career. In his early years as a researcher, he focused on fetal physiology, and his observations were reported in his M.D. thesis. During his initial association with the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada, he, the late John Keith, and Peter Vlad were very much involved with virtually every aspect of congenital heart disease. They defined the clinical-pathological correlations of many forms of congenital heart disease, and in the mid and late 1950s, a series of their papers catalogued clinical and angiographic findings in a wide range of congenitally malformed hearts. These observations culminated in the first edition of the now-classic textbook known as “Keith, Rowe, and Vlad.”

Leaving Toronto in the late 1950s, he returned home briefly to New Zealand, where he continued to make academic contributions while at Green Lane. He was summoned back to North America in 1963 to assume the position of Director of Pediatric Cardiology at Johns Hopkins University and lived in Baltimore, Maryland, for the next decade. His interest in the classic forms of congenital heart disease continued, but his longtime interest in the neonate with congenital heart disease took the form of a book of that name, published by W.B. Saunders Co. and coauthored by Ali Mehrizi. The 1960s saw the creation of the collaborative U.S. Natural History Study of Congenital Heart Disease, and both Johns Hopkins University and Dick Rowe himself played integral roles in this benchmark study, the summary of which was published in a supplement to *Circulation* in 1977.

While his interest in the classic structural forms of congenital heart disease never really waned, his curiosity about disorders of the transitional circulation, as well as his longtime interest in perinatal physiology and the newborn, led to another phase of his academic development: his interest in nonstructural heart disease. In 1972, with Tom Hoffman, he described babies with disordered transitional circulation who developed transient myocardial ischemia. After his return to Toronto in 1973, he instigated a number of papers describing the clinical and biochemical abnormalities of disturbed transitional myocardial circulation as well as the role of thallium scintigraphy in its assessment. Thus, it is not surprising that in the later years of his career, his interest in nonstructural heart disease led him to explore endocardial fibroelastosis in depth and to develop a particular expertise in the mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome of Kawasaki disease. He was very interested in virtually all aspects of this disorder, and defined the extent of Kawasaki disease in Canada. At the time of his premature death in 1988, he was working on the early stages of a monograph about selected aspects of acquired heart disease. One of the chapters he had finished at the time of his death was about Kawasaki disease.

Dick Rowe was a man of extraordinary talent: a warm and human physician, a gifted and stimulating teacher, a prolific and thoughtful clinician-scientist, and a superb advocate for the growing field of pediatric cardiovascular medicine. Although he was a private man who shunned the limelight, I know that Dick would be most pleased and honored to have this lecture named in this honor.

Robert M. Freedom, M.D.

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Presented on October 31, 2021 in the virtual meeting