

Page 8: Dr. Campbell Watts performing surgery at Mercy Medical Center

Page 9: Dr. Watts sailing in Door County, WI

Page 9: (Inset) "Defending the Breast Cancer Malpractice Case," co-written by Dr. Watts



Glorious fall weather greeted participants Oct. 12 at the 18th Annual *Especially For You*[®] Race Against Breast Cancer at Mercy Medical Center.

With 10,190 registrations, total money raised this year was \$254,005 (an additional \$75,400 in corporate support covers the cost of the race). Major sponsors for the event this year were Fairfax State Savings Bank and Toyota Financial Services. General Mills and Mercy Medical Center are co-founders of the race.

All proceeds go to the *Especially for You* fund, which provides mammography and other breast-care services for area women who otherwise cannot afford them. Since 1991, \$1,630,570 has been raised to meet the needs of women who are unable to afford breast cancer screening. As of October 2008, this fund has been accessed over 8,110 times.

The Legacy of Dr. Campbell Watts



The words “a gentleman and a scholar” bring one face to mind: that of Dr. Campbell Watts. The late Cedar Rapids surgeon was a “gentleman’s gentleman” and a scientist extraordinaire.

His is a story of firsts: first in his medical class at the University of Iowa, first recipient of the prestigious Gold Headed Cane Award from Mercy Medical Center (for medical excellence and leadership), and now posthumously, the first recipient of the *Especially for You*[®] Honors, a new tradition initiated by the *Especially for You* Race Against Breast Cancer committee.

The award “honors those in our community who have made an impact in breast cancer awareness and treatment,” says Kay Jackson, chair of the race committee. “During his 36 years of practice, Dr. Watts emerged as an Iowa pioneer in the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.”

Retired internist Dr. William Galbraith, a colleague and close friend of Watts, says, “He was one of the early Cedar Rapids surgeons who abandoned radical surgery for the more appropriate lumpectomy. Working closely with Dr. Curtis Hass, he helped develop improved radiation therapy protocols. His fascination with the biology of tumor growth, especially

angiogenesis research – the supply of blood to tumors – with its possible role in breast cancer treatment, remained a passion to the end of his life. There is no doubt he was obsessed with seeking a better way to diagnose and manage breast cancer.”

Dr. Campbell F. “Cam” Watts, at 6’2,” was sharp in intellect and gentle in spirit. Cam was a physician-scientist first and foremost – but pursued a parade of leisure interests: tennis, tuberous begonias, photography, sailing, reading and duck

carving. At the top, however, was his cherished family: wife Doris, and children Cheryle Watts Mitvalsky and Campbell Watts, Jr.

It was the science of medicine that was his passion, though – not odd, considering his pedigree: a physician father and a mother with a degree in bacteriology. Through the years, he developed a special interest in cancer, particularly breast cancer. His search for new knowledge never left him, even in retirement.

He wrote/co-wrote two books on breast cancer and medical malpractice. He thought unfamiliarity with the biology of the disease sometimes allowed cases to be tried when the true criminal was the nature of cancer, not the failing of the doctor.

His quest for the latest in knowledge led him and his wife to enhance and endow the Mercy medical library, now known as the Dr. Campbell F. and Doris J. Watts Medical Library, an outstanding resource for both professionals and the public.

Dr. Watts died Dec. 12, 2007. Whether the arena is breast cancer or books, Dr. Campbell Watts is remembered chiefly as the remarkable human being that he was, alleviating the disease most feared by women, solving with his scalpel what man or nature wrought – and leaving behind him a trail of knowledge that significantly improved the human condition.

