Jacquelin Perry M.D.  
A Tribute.  
May 31, 1918-March 11, 2013  

“GRAND DAME OF ORTHOPEDICS”  

"Dr. Perry wasn't just a legend, she was an incredible person who contributed so much to science, improved the lives of countless people around the world and was a tremendous mentor and friend,”  

Dr. Helena Chui  

“My life course has profited from several timely opportunities, and I grabbed each one”  

Dr. Perry  

Pre-Orthopaedics  

- Jacquelin Perry  
- Born May 31, 1918  
- Denver, Colorado  

1918 1950 2013
"I knew at about age 10 that I wanted to be a doctor," she said. "I read every medical book in the Los Angeles library."

1940 B.Ed. in Physical Education from UCLA

She taught swimming for one day before quitting to attend Physical Therapy school at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

"I had to convince the Army that I was completely unable to write, because if they thought I could write they would have made me a secretary," Dr. Perry said.
During World War II, Perry had served as a physical therapist in the Army, treating polio patients in Hot Springs, Ark. But she yearned to "make my own decisions," she later said, and decided to study medicine at UC San Francisco.

She was the first woman orthopaedic surgeon to graduate from the University of California San Francisco.

One of first 10 women board certified in Orthopedic Surgery
"Orthopaedic Surgery was definitely not a field for women back then," Dr. Perry said. "People said it was too strenuous and too mechanical. Surgery wasn't very fancy back then...the hardest part was holding up some football player's leg while putting on a plaster cast."

"most doctors go into medicine to save lives. I'm more interested in getting handicapped persons functioning again."

Orthopaedics Part I: Polio

1955
Dr Perry arrives at Rancho Los Amigos

Chief, Adult Polio Service

- Invented the Halo with Dr. Vernon Nickel
- Long cervical fusion for polio head instability: occiput to T6
- Long spine fusion for paralytic instability: C2 to L4
Dr. Perry once stated that her polio experience at Rancho broadened her medical experience and that of others because they developed a team concept of patient care. In this model, which has been replicated around the world, nurses, therapists and other clinicians were encouraged by the physician to take responsibility for evaluation and treatment planning.

PATIENTS
- Dr. Perry performed groundbreaking spinal fusion surgery on Ernest and Emma in the 1950s that enabled them to walk after suffering severe scoliosis from polio
  - When you look in Webster’s dictionary under the word ‘doctor’ there should be a picture of Dr. Perry there, because that’s how awesome she was” Ernest said
  - Because of the spinal fusion surgery Dr. Perry did for me and the gifts of life and mobility Dr. Perry gave me, I have been able to achieve all my dreams. I thank Dr. Perry not only for saving my life, but for making it worthwhile” Said Emma

Adult Polio Service
- Developed functional hand and upper extremity orthoses

MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE
Orthopaedics Part II: Stroke and Cerebral Palsy

- 1968 - 1974

Stroke Surgery

- 1958 Chief of Stroke Service

Contributions to Anatomy

- Co-identified the VMO with Fred Lieb

Scientist
Orthopaedics Part III: Pathokinesiology

- 1961 NIH Grant to study EMG definition of hand function
- Studies then done on the lower extremity and gait
- 1968 Pathokinesiology Service

"She contributed more than any other person to the practice of Rehabilitation Medicine, not just in America, but throughout the world," said renowned retired Rancho physician John Hsu, MD. "Dr. Perry didn't just set the standard, she was the standard," said Rancho Chief of Rehabilitation Therapies Lilli Thompson.

Bringing Science to Clinical Decisions

- Kinesiological EMG
- Gait Terminology
- Clinical Gait studies
- EMG analysis

Sports

- 1979 – 1988 Consultant, Biomechanics Lab, Centinela Hospital
- Studies of rotator cuff injuries in the professional throwing athlete
- Principles of movement and function extend from professional athlete to persons with severe limitations
Dr. Perry had one of the most prolific academic publication records of any clinician.

- Authored more than 400 peer-reviewed publications
- 40 book chapters
- Wrote the definitive textbook on Gait Analysis.

“Nobody ever brought more curiosity, knowledge, intellect and dedication to advancing science as did Dr. Perry, and she always had her trademark twinkle in her eye when she was working with her patients or her publications. She loved what she did. And as a result, she stood alone in her accomplishments as a researcher and as a clinician” Jo Gronley

1980 Dr. Perry’s previous polio patients begin returning with new symptoms. She begins investigations to define PPS and treatments.
Emeritus Years
- 1992 “Retired”
- AKA: works without pay
- Continues with research, teaching and writing

MENTOR AND TEACHER
- Medical students
- Residents
- Fellows
- Faculty
- Physical Therapy Students
- Physical Therapists
- Professor USC School of Medicine AND School of Physical Therapy

“Students must be challenged to think, to analyze and to solve problems. They must be encouraged to form opinions and to be able to support them when opposed. They must develop a sense of responsibility to create and organize—not just learn to do as told.”

The no-nonsense Perry was seen as both an intimidating and inspiring teacher. Those who survived presenting a case before her were often given an unofficial award. They called it "the red badge of courage."
Dr. Jacquelin Perry
Medicine

1959 Times Woman of the Year

1969 Polio International Society

More than 35 Major Honors

- 1959 Times Woman of the Year
- 1976 Kappa Delta Award of ORS for EMG studies
- 1980 Alumnus of the Year UCSF Medical School
- 1988 Shands Lecture
- 1988 UCLA Professional Achievement Award

1994 Physician of the year State of California

1996 Honorary Sc.D. from the University of Southern California

1999 Shands Tribute Lecture – ORS

1999 Lowman Award of the ACRM
HONORS

- 1999 LA Times Woman of the Year in Medicine in Southern California
  "As far as I'm concerned, I've never worked," Perry told The Times in 1999. "I do what I like to do."

- 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Gait and Clinical Movement Society

HONORS

- RJOS Jacquelin Perry Resident Research Award
  - 3rd President of RJOS

- 2011 inaugural Amistad “Rancho Legend Award”

HONORS

- Visiting professorships worldwide
- Honorary memberships:
  - American Physical Therapy Association
  - American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists

March 1981: Visit with Mrs. Sadat, The First Lady of Egypt
Opened 1992, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey, California

“I think it’s the best damn idea I’ve ever had” said Dr. Perry when asked about the Perry Initiative

November 2012 The First Annual UCSF Orthopedic Excellence in Mentorship Award
"In addition to being a brilliant physician, physical therapist and surgeon, she was beloved for her intellect, her dedication and her kindness. She was a legendary scientist and an even more memorable person. We will remember her always as Rancho’s greatest doctor and an enduring symbol of true excellence. She will be greatly missed."

Rancho Chief Executive Officer Jorge Orozco.