

Frank P. Smith

Frank P. Smith, MD, who strongly influenced the evolution of neurosurgery, died in California on Sept. 22, one month shy of his 88th birthday. Dr. Smith, a 1941 graduate of the University of Rochester Medical School, trained in neurosurgery under William P. Van Wagenen. Later in his career, Dr. Smith was instrumental in organizing the Van Wagenen Fellowship, which is administered by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS). "Frank dedicated himself to the preservation of the Van Wagenen fellowship," said Robert A. Ratcheson, MD. "He was instrumental in securing its continued existence in a form that will be of great benefit to future fellows. Frank was a remarkable fellow and will be missed by all of us." Dr. Smith served as chairman of the neurosurgical service at the University of Rochester from 1954 to 1974. During his two decades as chief, he was very involved in clinical research on surgical treatment for pain management and brain aneurysms, arterial chemotherapy for brain tumors, bioengineering as it related to lumbar disc protrusion, and pediatric neurosurgery. In 1974 Dr. Smith relocated to Monterey, Calif., where he practiced until 1991. He endowed the Frank P. Smith Chair in Neurosurgery in 1981 and was instrumental in developing the Frank P. Smith Neurosurgical Laboratories in 2002, both at the University of Rochester Medical Center. In 2001 the AANS honored Dr. Smith with the Distinguished Service Award.

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