

## IN MEMORIAM

**ALLAN E. DUMONT, MD**  
**Revered Surgeon, Teacher, and Pioneering Lymphologist**  
**October 8, 1924 - November 17, 2017**



*Dr. Dumont teaching at Bellevue Hospital.*

Allan E. Dumont, M.D., passed away November 18, 2017 at the age of 93. Dr. Charles Witte and I first encountered Allan Dumont in 1959-1960 when we were senior medical students at New York University School of Medicine. We were designing our senior research project and had decided to explore hormonal influences on peptic ulcer formation in an experimental model. John Mulholland, long-time Professor and Chair of Surgery at NYU, reviewed our proposal and then leaned down to pick up a book he had just received to review: it was Rusznyák, Földi and Szabó's tome on "Lymphatics and Lymph Circulation." He advised us to

abandon the "fashionable" project we had planned and turn our attention instead to this neglected system about which so little was known but which likely held clues to many different disorders. He suggested that we walk down the hall and talk to a young Professor of Surgery (Allan Dumont) who had just begun research on the lymph circulation in visceral disorders. Thus, began our own lifelong "fantastic voyage" through the lymphatic system as we became fellow travelers with Allan as our tour guide for the next several decades.

He grew up in Brooklyn and then attended Hobart College and NYU School

of Medicine. After completing a surgical residency at Bellevue Hospital and a tour in the U.S. Navy, he joined the faculty at NYU for 31 years, where he became Jules Whitehill Professor of Surgery. Bellevue was his primary practice, where he led the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Surgical Divisions and then was Associate Director of the Department of Surgery until his retirement. He also saw patients at the Manhattan VA Hospital and New York University Hospital. He served as long-standing chairman of the NYU Institutional Review Board. During his career, Dr. Dumont received many awards, including the prestigious Solomon A. Berson Medical Alumni Award in Health Science from NYU School of Medicine.

Following retirement to New Hartford, Connecticut in 1990, he continued as a popular teacher at the University of Connecticut Health Sciences Center, then moved to Maine in 2003. Dr. Dumont published 25 book chapters and 115 journal articles, including in *Nature*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Annals of Surgery*, on topics ranging from wound healing, transplantation, and circulatory physiology to cirrhosis, heart failure, and pancreatitis. He was an expert on the lymphatic system, serving as editor of

the journal *Lymphology* and as a founder and twice president of the International Society of Lymphology (1979-1983). He was also elected president of the New York Surgical Society and maintained a special interest in the history of Bellevue Hospital.

Dr. Dumont married Joan Auerbach in 1949 and was a devoted husband and father to three sons – Mark, James, and David – and grandfather to seven adoring grandchildren. Notwithstanding his many accomplishments, his family believes that Allan's greatest legacy is that "he lived life according to his belief that every individual in our society deserves to be treated with respect."

We welcome comments from ISL members about their remembrances of this legendary lymphologist, mentor, and friend.

**Marlys H. Witte, MD**  
**Professor of Surgery, University of Arizona**  
**Secretary-General, International Society**  
**of Lymphology**

**with special thanks to the Dumont family for providing additional information and photo.**