



James Ellsworth Dill, MD

City: Westminster, CA

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: Northwestern Medical School

Residency Location: Hines VA, Maywood; Cook County, Chicago

Specialty: Cardiology

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician? I was 1) high school valedictorian and confident I could handle medical school; 2) able to help less fortunate; 3) named after an old family doctor, James B. Ellingwood, MD.

Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you? 1) Dr. Loyal Davis decreeing: 'Act like a doctor!' (daughter Nancy was in Hollywood) 2) 'Four Horsemen', Johns Hopkins; esp., Sir William Osler, and Dr. William Welch, Lt. Colonel, Army, stressing simple hygienic measures for the army – still used today.

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician? Making a difference with large populations: 1) caring for gnarled lepers as an AMA volunteer physician at Hue Vietnam, Hospital. The patients were shunned and forgotten by their countrymen; and 2) participating in smallpox eradication in Bangladesh.

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without? Listen and learn: Sir William Osler always taught and said, "Listen to the patient, and he or she will tell you the diagnosis."

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007? 'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' A healthful lifestyle is all the fad now.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice? The multiple risk factors intervention trials in the early '70's.

What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career? That all of us should have mobilized much earlier against 'big tobacco.'

Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career? All of the gnarled, shunned lepers in the Vietnam highlands. Invariably, a baby would be bound tightly to its leper mothers back: indefinite intimate contact