

September 5, 1972

Richard E. Hurley, M.D.  
American Heart Association  
44 East 23rd Street  
New York, New York 10010

Dear Dick:

I think the immensity of Howard's contribution would be made clearer and more appealing by touching on some of the actual subjects I have added here. But feel free to cut.

I also toned down some of the thick oratory which, knowing Howard, would render him most uncomfortable.

Thanks for the chance to do this.

Cordially,

Henry Blackburn, M.D.  
Professor and Director

HB:mh  
enclosures  
cc: Dr. Campbell Moses

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

JAMES B. HERRICK AWARD

Presented by

The Council on Clinical Cardiology

to

HOWARD B. BURCHELL, M.D.

The 1972 James B. Herrick Award of the American Heart Association's Council on Clinical Cardiology is presented to Dr. Howard B. Burchell of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for his extraordinary achievements in the advancement and practice of clinical cardiology.

During a superlative career that spans four decades, Howard Burchell has been a crucial force in the dynamic evolution of modern cardiovascular medicine-- as clinician, teacher, investigator, author and editor. He has been described often as the "cardiologist's cardiologist" and the "dean of cardiology," ample testimony indeed to the high esteem in which he is held by his colleagues all over the world.

As clinician, he has made many vital contributions to both adult and pediatric cardiology, most notably in the areas of specific diagnoses in congenital heart disease and acquired valvular disturbances and in electrocardiography.

He was the originator of the surgical approach to Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome, was one of the first to point out the hazards of electrical apparatus in the laboratory, and in surgery and cardiac care units. He had an active influence in the surgical treatment of valvular diseases, particularly in collaboration with John Kirklin and H.J.C. Swan.

As investigator, Howard Burchell's basic physiological contributions have been profound. He was one of the earliest to demonstrate and work on collaterals and anastomoses in the coronary circulation. He had a fruitful collaboration with Earl Wood in the early days of cardiac catheterization and later with oximetry

and dye dilution methods. His work in electrophysiology included experimental and clinical studies in pericarditis, subendocardial injury, potassium metabolism, digitalis effect, and the normal and anomalous spread of ventricular activation. In the latter field he became a fast friend and collaborator of another great innovator of electrophysiology, Dirk Durrer of Amsterdam, and was the Einthoven Lecturer in Leiden in 1967.

As medical educator, Howard Burchell belongs to a rare breed of inspirational teachers. He has fired the imaginations of many gifted young people to pursue advanced investigative careers in clinical cardiology. Scattered throughout the nation's leading academic institutions, they are spreading the traditions espoused by Dr. Burchell--and traceable to Dr. James B. Herrick.

Howard Burchell's influence on generations of clinical cardiologists must be measured not only in terms of the knowledge he has imparted but in the example he has set--both professional and human. He brings a clear, rational, unfettered approach to clinical problems that establishes a standard to which all cardiologists can aspire. At the same time, he is a genuine healer, a man of patience and compassion.

As author, Howard Burchell has more than 300 papers in his bibliography. He has had a most productive collaboration with Jesse Edwards in cardiovascular pathology and participated in the preparation of An Atlas of Acquired Diseases of the Heart, a three-volume set published in 1961; and was one of Edwards co-authors of Congenital Anomalies of the Heart and Great Vessels, published in 1948 and again in 1954. He was a leader in the development of the Electrocardiographic Test Book, published under the auspices of the American Heart Association.

Howard Burchell is an outstanding historian of cardiology, since his early days with Dr Thomas Lewis, and he has made many scholarly contributions in biography throughout the years, on Stephen Hales; Withering, Van Dyke, and others.

Much of Howard Burchell's career was spent at the Mayo Clinic, where he played a vital role in the creation of the institution's Cardiology Program, begun in 1946. His efforts helped to establish the Mayo Clinic as a leader in the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. In 1968, after retirement from the Clinic, he was named Chief of Cardiology at the University of Minnesota Hospitals, where he started a new career and brought new stature, tradition and invigoration to that institution.

Howard Burchell has served the American Heart Association with unstinting energy and dedication. He has chaired the national Research Committee and the Scientific Sessions Program Committee. He has been extremely active on the Committee on Cardiac Catheterization and Angiography. And for five years he worked tirelessly, skillfully and tactfully and kindly as Editor of Circulation, exercising the highest level of scientific criticism for this highly-acclaimed journal, and thereby upgrading the quality of cardiovascular investigation, in works he rejected, as well as those he accepted for publication.

For these achievements, then, it is with great pleasure that the Council on Cardiology of the American Heart Association proudly confers the 1972 James B. Herrick Award upon Dr. Howard B. Burchell.