

January 13, 2020

To: Emory University Emeritus College (EUEC) Faculty Award of Distinction Committee

It is my distinct honor and a privilege to nominate a colleague, Dr. Joseph E. Hardison (Dr. Joe), for an EUEC Faculty Award of Distinction. Dr. Joe received his A.B degree from Emory University in 1956 and his M.D. degree from Emory School of Medicine in 1960. He completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the VA Hospital in 1965. In June 1966, Dr. Joe completed a Fellowship in Hematology at the VA Hospital prior to joining Emory University School of Medicine as Instructor in Medicine (Hematology). He served as Chief of Medicine at the VA Medical Center from 1975 through 1990. I will now briefly list Dr. Joe's major accomplishments prior to August 8, 2001 when he was granted Emeritus professor status.

Dr. Joe is a great teacher and mentor. For over 30 years he supervised and taught fellows, house-staff and medical students as well as supervising and teaching for the Emory VA Residency Program. The 1976-1977 Senior Medical Class, School of Medicine, voted him Best Clinical Professor and chose Dr. Joe to deliver the Valedictory Address. He received the prestigious Evangeline Papageorge Alumni Teaching Award in 2001. He was awarded the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching 5 times from the Department of Medicine House-staff, VA Medical Center (1990, 1991, 1995, 1997, & 2001). Dr. Joe was named Teacher of the Year by the students in the Physician's Assistant (PA) Program in 1991. He also was named Best Attending Physician in Medicine by both the class of 1996 and 1997, Emory School of Medicine. It is noteworthy to add that Dr. Joe served admirably as a member of the Emory Human Investigations Committee for many years (1975-1994).

With regard to research, the Web of Science lists Hardison, JE with forty-nine journal publications from 1968 through 1989. Dr. Joe refers to these as his Collection of Essays. Dr. Joe's articles were published under Occasional Notes by *The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)*, under A Piece of My Mind by the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* and under Medicine, Science and Society by the *American Journal of Medicine (AJM)*. At that time, Essays generally were found at the end of a journal issue. Currently, the top-tiered journals highlight these types of submissions by placing them in the front of a journal issue as Perspectives or Editorials. Dr. Joe was clearly ahead of the times here. Dr. Joe's publications were often in top-tiered, high impact medical journals. Five were in the *NEJM* (Impact Factor = 72.4), fifteen were in *JAMA* (Impact Factor = 44.4) and fourteen were in the *AJM* (Impact Factor = 5.0). (See Attachment #1 for samples of Dr. Joe's Essays: two each from the *NEJM*, *JAMA*, and *AJM*.) He co-authored two chapters in Dr. Hurst's classic textbook entitled ***The Heart***. One chapter is titled "Sickle Cell Anemia and the Heart (1979)" and the other chapter is titled "The Venous Hum (1981)". Being selected to write these chapters by Dr. Hurst is yet another tribute to Dr. Joe (See Attachment #2, Dr. Joe's Curriculum Vita, dated June 2001.)

I will now discuss Dr. Joe's professional activities and accomplishments starting from the date that he was granted Emeritus status (August 8, 2001). From 2001 through 2014, Dr. Joe rounded with medical students, PA students, and medical house-staff. He mentored Chief

Medical Residents and rounded with Emergency Room staff at their weekly conferences. Dr. Rafael Jurado, Associate Professor, VA Primary Care & Quality, states that he personally regularly attended these invaluable conferences and that Dr. Joe was his go to person when he wasn't able to make a definitive diagnosis on one of his patients. (See Attachment #3, letter of support from Dr. Rafael Jurado.) And for 2005-2006, Dr Joe was awarded the Best Overall Teaching Attending by the Medical Residents.


On October 29, 2008, Dr. J. Willis Hurst wrote in a letter to Dr. Joe saying ... "You have achieved the ultimate in my book. A great teacher, a caring physician. The students and house-staff have made you a legend. We need many more like you. I thank you for all that you have done for the Department of Medicine." On December 19, 2008, Dr. Hurst wrote a note to Dr. Joe stating... "You continue to be the best. Students and house-staff love you- respect you- and are better because of you. Please keep on." What a magnanimous tribute from Dr. Hurst, a super star thought leader and former Chair of Emory's Department of Medicine.

One of Dr. Joe's Chief Residents, Dr. Bonnie Prokesch, wrote an article entitled "A Doctor's Doctor" for the Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society Spring 2017 publication. Dr. Prokesch refers to a patient named Dr. Joseph who is actually our Dr. Joe. (See Attachment #4, a copy of the article.) I now quote several things from Dr. Prokesch's article that typify Dr. Joe.

(1) "He knew what to ask, how to ask it, and what to look for when talking and examining a patient." (2) "As an Emeritus Professor he spent countless hours at the bedside teaching students and residents physical exam skills." (3) "His passion for the art of medicine, and all the wisdom and compassion that he imparted on thousands of students, residents and patients will continue to shape the lives of future physicians, and their patients for years to come." (4) "Though I thought it was impossible to love, respect, and admire my idol even more, my love, respect, and admiration for this wonderful man grew exponentially when he became my patient (Dr. Hardison)." (5) "Throughout my career, many of my patients have become my heroes. Only one of my heroes, however, has ever become my patient (Dr. Hardison)."

At the Sixth Annual Hurst Internal Medicine Reunion on September 26, 2009, Dr. Joe was an Honoree for his teaching and dedication to the Residency Program. Dr. Joe officially retired on March 4, 2014 for his second and final time. The main Conference Room for Internal Medicine at the VA has been named in his honor. In 2018-2019, Dr. Joe did eight mock interviews for Emory students applying to medical schools. An Emory Class of 2020 mock interviewee sent an email to Dr. Joe thanking him for sharing his long and flourishing career as a physician at the VA and Emory and his advice "to just be yourself" when interviewed.

In summary, I enthusiastically nominate Dr. Joseph E. Hardison for an Emory University Emeritus College Faculty Award of Distinction. Dr. Joe's reputation is a true inspiration.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Kutner, Ph.D.
Rollins Professor of Biostatistics