

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
PAUL ALLEN HENSLEIGH, MD, PHD
(1939-2007)

Paul Allen Hensleigh, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the School of Medicine, and Past Chief of Obstetrics at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, was born on July 15, 1939 in Marysville, Kansas, and died November 6, 2007 in Palo Alto, California. Paul was the second of eight children of Paul Wilson Hensleigh and Aletha Leota (Wheeler). Paul attended the University of Kansas where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, and Doctoral Degrees in Physiology and in Medicine at its' School of Medicine in Kansas City, Kansas. Thereafter, he also completed a Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. After two years teaching residents at Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Washington, he returned to the University of Kansas Medical Center, and spent five years there on the faculty.

In 1977, I recruited Hensleigh to Stanford, to serve as Chief of Obstetrics at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center where he practiced as a perinatologist until he opted for early retirement in 2000. At the time, Hensleigh was at the 'top of his game', but he was drawn away to tackle a clinical problem in developing nations that contributes to more than half of the over 500,000 maternal deaths annually, worldwide. Using a NASA-developed life-saving garment that resembles a dismantled wet suit, he undertook medical missions to Pakistan, Albania, Macedonia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Mexico and China, to improve the survival of pregnant women in these developing nations. He taught local caregivers to aid patients suffering from obstetrical hemorrhaging: heavy bleeding during and after delivery that results in life-threatening shock and frequent death.

When a hemorrhaging patient is bundled up in the light-weight suit that wraps a person from ankle to navel in three-way stretch neoprene fastened with Velcro, a patient's blood pressure temporarily improves because bleeding is slowed, shuttling blood to the heart and brain and restoring function, until blood transfusions and remedial care are accessed. The pressure induced by the garment pumps the equivalent of one to two liters of blood into the upper part of the body—"like getting a big transfusion in one minute," said Hensleigh. This low-cost device called a Non-Inflatable Anti-shock Garment (NIAG) was originally designed for children with a genetic bleeding disorder, but Hensleigh identified the new application and founded an Oregon company to produce the new product useful for adults.

After achieving success with the garment in a Pakistani hospital in 2001, he set out to develop efficacy studies. In 2003, he and UC-San Francisco safe motherhood expert Suellen Miller, PhD, received a *MacArthur Foundation* grant to conduct clinical trials. Hensleigh spent much of the last few years of his life testing the garment in third-world hospitals. Conducting research in politically unstable regions certainly had its downside: Hensleigh was held hostage in a 2004 robbery at a hotel in Ibadan, taking a 'slug in his

scalp' and having his laptop stolen. But this incident didn't deter him—He returned to Kano, Nigeria soon thereafter. "The results from using the NIAG are overwhelmingly positive", he said. "There's been a lot of momentum – once people use it, they can see with their own eyes that it works. Unconscious, hypotensive patients become alert within about a minute after application."

In 2007, Hensleigh became president of the Albanian Health Fund board after making eight teaching trips to Albania and Macedonia following the fall of communism. In addition, he organized teaching missions to various medical schools in China with Professional Education Services International (PESI). He was a Founding Member of the Society of Maternal–Fetal Medicine begun in 1977.

Paul's avocation was his horses that he raised, trained, exercised, and doctored. He and his family took many back-country pack trips, enjoying the out-of-doors, and camping and skiing with friends.

Hensleigh died on Nov. 6, 2007, following a seven-month illness with pancreatic cancer. His ashes were interred near his hometown of Winchester, Kansas. "Dr. Hensleigh was an outstanding obstetrician who combined a deep understanding of obstetrical problems with a commitment to improving obstetrical care for women—both in this country and around the world," said Maurice Druzin, MD, the Charles B. and Ann L. Johnson Professor in the School of Medicine and Vice Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "He was a dedicated clinician, teacher and clinical investigator, and we will all miss him," Druzin added. "The world will be poorer for his passing."

During the 30 years until his death, Hensleigh was heavily involved with the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, where he served as missions elder, among other positions.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie (Frederiksen) of Stanford; son, Paul Andrew Hensleigh, of Elk Grove; daughter, Michelle Pilarczyk, of London; six grandchildren and seven siblings. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Heather Gribble.

Mr. Chairman, I have the honor on behalf of a committee consisting of Maurice Druzin, Yassar El-Sayed and myself, to place before the Senate of the Academic Council a Resolution in the memory of the late Paul Allen Hensleigh, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the School of Medicine.

Committee:

Wm. LeRoy Heinrichs, (Chair)
Maurice Druzin
Yassar El-Sayed