

IN MEMORIAM



Jack T. Tumlin (1918–2006)

Dr. Jack T. Tumlin, of Cocoa, FL, the visionary architect of the Master of Avian Medicine (M.A.M.) degree at the University of Georgia, died September 14, 2006, at the age of 88. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy, the M.A.M. program, reminds us of him every day, when young veterinarians are attending classes to specialize in poultry medicine. Dr. Tumlin's legacy will remain for years to come as long as the M.A.M. program continues to train specialized veterinarians who will help the poultry industry and the consumers, nationally and internationally, as both American and foreign veterinarians come through the program. The first M.A.M. graduated from the University of Georgia in 1972, and since then, 125 veterinarians have received the M.A.M. degree at that university.

Dr. Tumlin, a Georgian native, earned his B.S.A. with a major in Poultry Science from the University of Georgia in 1942. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he undertook graduate studies at the University of Tennessee, where he served as an Instructor and Assistant Professor (1947–1949); he received his M.S. with a poultry-related thesis in 1949. He obtained his D.V.M. degree from the University of Georgia in 1953 and his M.P.H. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1958. Upon graduation from veterinary school, he worked for Merck & Company (1952–1955). He returned to the University of Georgia in 1958 as Assistant Professor and Head of the Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory. He returned to industry to work for Central Soya (1959–1964). Through frequent moves between academia and industry, he gained broad experience with poultry operations, inspiring him to see the need for specialized veterinarians and the M.A.M. program. When he returned to the University of Georgia in 1965, the M.A.M. program became his goal and ultimate achievement. He actively participated in soliciting poultry-related industries for funds for students before the program became accepted and funded by the university. He returned to industry in 1972 as Director of Technical Services with Vineland Laboratories. He later worked for Anitox Corporation, then moved to Springdale, AR, to become Director of the Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Diagnostic Laboratory. In 1987, he returned to Vineland Laboratories as Director of Technical Services until his retirement in 1991.

Dr. Tumlin was an active member of many professional and scientific societies, including the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Poultry Science Association. He served the American Association of Avian Pathologists as District Director and as a member of the Board of Directors (1966–1970), Chair of the Committee on Continuing Education (1966–1970), Director of Placement Service (1968–1975), and President (1973–1974). He also served on numerous committees representing important interests of the poultry industry. In 1988, Dr. Tumlin was the first recipient of the American Association of Avian Pathologists newly established C. A. Bortorff Award to honor diagnostic and technical services of veterinarians who have contributed significantly to progress in the poultry health industry over the past 10 yr.

The continued success of the M.A.M. program at the University of Georgia is a fitting tribute to Dr. Tumlin's service to veterinary medicine and the poultry industry. He is survived by his wife, Dolores; three daughters, Jane McCartney and husband, Dave, of Yorktown, IN; Barbara Anderson and husband, Wes, of Stone Mountain, GA; and Evelyn Lambert, and husband, Sam, of Carrollton, GA; a stepson, Robert (Bob) Brawner and wife, Joy, of Aledo, TX; a stepdaughter-in-law, Cathy Brawner of Corpus Christi, TX; and six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, and two step-great-grandchildren.