

## NEW YORK OBSTETRICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR LOUISE TYRER

Louise Tyrer was born in Shanghai, China in 1921. Her parents were Seventh Day Adventist missionaries in Shanghai and also Honan in central China. Her father was a surgeon who staffed a local hospital and who established a nursing school there. Dr. Tyrer grew up there as an active participant in Chinese daily life, observing famine, starvation, and problems of overpopulation during the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1937, Dr. Tyrer and her family fled Shanghai, with just a suitcase each, due to the Japanese invasion, and they settled in California where she attended college and graduated from medical school at Loma Linda University in 1943. Dr. Tyrer then completed a rotating internship and an obstetrics and gynecology residency at the Los Angeles General Hospital. She selected obstetrics and gynecology because of her exposure to the needs of women when she was growing up in China.

After completing training, she spent the next decades in private practice in Northern California and in Nevada. During those years, she became the head of Ob/Gyn at Washoe Medical Center in Reno, Nevada and also directed the county Maternal-Infant Care program. She also founded the organization that is now known as the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, a multidisciplinary group that focuses on family planning research and education; in her retirement many years later she served as the medical director of that Washington DC based organization.

In 1971 Dr. Tyrer was appointed director of the Division of Family Planning at ACOG, which was then located in Chicago, and in subsequent years served on many ACOG committees, particularly those related to family planning, physician education, and care of the underserved. Through her ACOG position she ran two national family planning programs funded by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity. She was the first woman physician hired by the College.

In 1975, Dr. Tyrer relocated to New York City to become the Vice-President for Medical Affairs of Planning Parenthood Federation of America. In that position she developed Medical Standards and Guidelines for use in PP clinics throughout the US. These initiatives predated and anticipated today's standards regarding improvements in quality of care through the use of evidence-based guidelines. In addition, she was also the Medical Director for Family Planning International Assistance (of PPFA), in which role she established family planning clinics in 20 countries. While based in NYC she was an associate professor of OB/GYN at the Cornell Medical School, and she became a member of this society.

Dr. Tyrer retired from PPFA in 1991, and continued her activities as a consultant to many organizations including FDA, DHHS, the U.S. State Department, and the WHO. She authored 131 scientific papers, focusing on family planning and international health.

Until her last years, Dr. Tyrer enjoyed an active family and social life, and is survived by her two sons. She was an inspiring and generous colleague, and an enormous force for good in developing organizations and clinics that continue to provide family planning services to poor women around the world.