

## **EDWARD CHARLES WACH, DDS, MS**

*"He was the epitomy of a professional man willing to share his knowledge not only in dentistry but in many related fields."*

Dr. Edward Charles Wach was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1885. He received his degree from the College of Pharmacy, in 1907, his DDS degree in 1923 and his MS degree in physiological chemistry in 1938 for his work titled "Studies of the relationship between various salivary constituents and dental caries," all from the University of Illinois.

He served on the faculty of the Dental College in the Department of Materia Medica and Therapeutics from 1923 until his retirement in 1955. He was twice the recipient of the Chicago Dental Society award for original research: the first time for the development of an ammoniated tooth powder and second for the demonstration of the effect of radioactive ascorbic acid, Vitamin C, on the periodontal membrane when ingested by guinea pigs. Drs. Wach and Kesel were granted a patent by the U.S. Patent Office on an ammoniated toothpaste containing basic ammonium phosphate. In 1951, the patent, issued in Dr. Wach's name, was assigned to the University of Illinois Foundation and subsequently the foundation received an award of \$753,000 from a New York drug firm that infringed on the Wach patent. Dr. Wach, as a fitting tribute to his work in the development of the tooth powder, established in the College of Dentistry the Edward C. Wach Fund to be used by the College's clinical departments for research in clinical areas.

In addition to his work as a research he exhibited and demonstrated his ability to students as a superb clinician, teacher and mentor.

Dr. Wach was a member of many professional organizations, a consultant of the Dental Division of the U.S. Public Health Service, and a member of the Psi Omega Fraternity. Dr. Wach received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Dental Alumni Association and the Loyalty Award of the General Alumni Association. He published articles in many different journals. He co-authored a book on materia medica and endodontics with J.R. Blayney. Along with his work at the university he practiced part time in a local area until six months before his death August 10, 1966, at the age of 81.

### **EDWARD C. WACH DENTAL RESEARCH FUND**

The purpose of the Edward C. Wach Dental Research Fund is to stimulate interest and provide financial assistance for research by the clinical departments in the University of Illinois College of Dentistry. It is recognized that the clinical departments in dental education carry such a heavy teaching responsibility that little time or opportunity are available for clinical faculty members to participate in research activity. It is difficult for staff members to acquire sufficient recognition in the field of research to attract financial support for the pursuit of creative ideas they develop. This fund is established to help avoid this type of discouragement and to provide needed assistance to the clinician who wishes to do research.

Primary Source: Remeikis, N.A. A historical sketch of the Department of Endodontics, 1965-1999. Department of Endodontics, University of Illinois at Chicago.