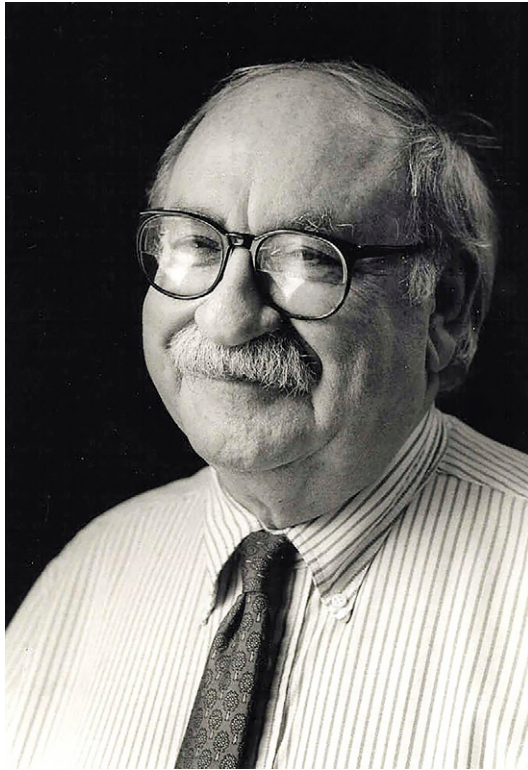




**Henry J. Mankin, MD**  
**1928-2018**

**H**enry J. Mankin, MD, the Edith M. Ashley Professor of Orthopaedics Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and past Chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, passed away in his home on December 22, 2018. He recently celebrated his 90th birthday with friends and colleagues. He will forever be remembered as a dedicated physician who was loved by his patients, and was a superb scientist, educator extraordinaire, leader, and colorful raconteur. He was arguably the most influential orthopaedic surgeon of his time.

He was born on October 9, 1928, and raised in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, PA, the son of Hymie (who ran the Special Clothing Company) and Mary Mankin, both recent Jewish immigrants from Lithuania. Henry always felt a strong and warm attachment to his home town and fondly talked about his days at Taylor Allderdice High School during the years of World War II. He graduated with a degree in Physics from the University of Pittsburgh and an MD degree in 1953. While an intern at the University of Chicago, he excelled in internal medicine and continued to wear a stethoscope throughout his practice. He also worked alongside William F. Enneking in Chicago, where he was influenced by Howard Hatcher and Dallas Phemister and where he likely was first exposed to bone allografts. During the Korean Conflict, he served at a naval base in Nevada, treating the seamen and their families for fractures

and delivering babies. This is probably where he developed his lifelong interest in orthopaedics.

In 1960, following his military service, he completed an orthopaedic residency at the Hospital for Joint Diseases, where he worked closely with Henry L. Jaffe, Chief of Pathology. Dr. Jaffe became a friend and mentor and introduced him to the study of bone tumors. In 1960, Dr. Mankin joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh with Albert B. Ferguson, Jr., MD. For years after he left, “Henry” was considered by most at Pitt to be a virtual faculty member, serving until recently on the Dean’s advisory visiting committee at the medical school. He then was recruited back to New York to become the Chair at the Hospital for Joint Diseases and Mount Sinai Hospital. In 1972, he became the Edith M. Ashley Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School and Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, a position he held for 24 years. He brought with him to Boston fellow exemplary colleagues Richard Smith (hand), Michael Ehrlich (pediatric orthopaedics), Charlie Weiss, and Robert Leffert (shoulder and peripheral nerve), and built an extraordinary department.

Central to his passion for orthopaedics were student and resident education. He was a superb teacher who delivered spectacular and unforgettable lectures, illustrated with his unique style and humor, which left indelible marks in the minds of his students. He sang “Peter and the Wolf” to illustrate the cells that make and destroy bone, acted out “Lot’s wife,” and demonstrated how the musculoskeletal system protected us from saber-toothed tigers when lecturing on metabolic bone disease. His 6:30-A.M. “Breakfasts with Henry” are legendary, and although a few may have lost their appetite for breakfast, all appreciated his teaching and lessons about the care of patients—as well as other aspects of medicine and life—that will last throughout their careers. He and colleagues started the “Newport Course” for orthopaedic basic science education, which continues to this day, now in Boston. He traveled and taught throughout the world and was revered in Japan, Korea, Europe, Israel, and many other places. He started a fellowship program in musculoskeletal oncology, which continues to this day and has provided clinical and research experiences for countless doctors throughout the world.

He was a consummate researcher, with long-term National Institutes of Health funding for his interests. He has made many contributions to our understanding of metabolic bone diseases, osteoarthritis, and musculoskeletal oncology. He made his basic science observations translational in nature, especially in caring for degenerative disorders of articular cartilage and by re-introducing osteoarticular allografts into the armamentarium of the tumor surgeon when other methods of reconstruction were lacking. His work on the principles of biopsy improved the ability to salvage limbs and often avoid amputations. His publications number over 600, reflecting the breadth of his interests and knowledge in pediatric and adult orthopaedics. His landmark papers on metabolic bone disease

in JBJS in 1974 remain classics. There were still manuscripts in preparation in his home office at the time of his passing.

He was President of the American Orthopaedic Association, chaired the committee that wrote the initial Orthopaedic In-Training Examination, and was President of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery at the time when recertification was introduced. He was devoted to the inclusion of women and minorities in medicine, and his residency program has always been exemplary in its diversity—a culture he attributed to his upbringing in Squirrel Hill. He received innumerable awards, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Diversity Award in 2004.

His wife, Carole, was the love of his life and his life partner. She was a medical librarian who worked at the Treadwell Library at Massachusetts General Hospital, and they

often drove into work together. Henry missed her terribly after she died 6 years ago. He has 3 children, Allison, David and Keith, all of whom have rewarding careers, and Henry loved to talk about his grandchildren.

Henry's passing is a great loss to the orthopaedic community, but he lived a full life and contributed much. In some ways, whether you knew him or not, you have been influenced by his teachings. At every residency graduation, he would quote from his high school principal, "Classes come and classes go, and after a while they all merge into one," and then would talk about teaching as the highest profession because your students live to go on and do better and more wonderful things than you could ever imagine as a teacher. And that is *his* legacy. *We* are his legacy.

M.C.G.

G.F.