

**A tribute to Samuel C. Bukantz, MD by Robert P. Nelson, MD, Professor of
Medicine and Pediatrics, Division of Hematology/Oncology, Indiana University
School of Medicine. Dr. Nelson worked with Dr. Bukantz while at USF and is the
recipient of the 2020 Samuel C. Bukantz, MD, USF Allergy/Immunology
Outstanding Research/Achievement Award.**

Samuel Charles Bukantz, MD, graduated and completed his MD from New York University and the New York University College of Medicine. Following his residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital in medicine, microbiology and pathology, he practiced while working a fellowship at Harlem Hospital doing pneumococcal pneumonia research. His first paper concerned the elaboration of a capsular polysaccharide in pneumococci, which he published in 1941. Dr. Bukantz then received the Parmalee Fellowship at Emergency Hospital, where he completed an in-vitro study of sulfonamide sensitivity. He enlisted in the Army Medical Corps assigned to the Medical Department Professional Service School at the Army Medical Center, where he studied the immunology of typhus fever and malaria. Dr. Bukantz published important papers on cross-species antibody alloreactivity in rabbits, allergic reactivity in humans, status asthmaticus in children, the metabolism of allergens and the treatment and side effects of glucocorticosteroids for the treatment of asthma. During this period, he collaborated with the most accomplished of allergists/immunologists, including David Talmadge, MD and Frank Dixon, MD. From the beginning, he was a scientifically observant practitioner, who shared his knowledge and taught scores of clinicians in the care of patients, and the proper tactics of communicating clinical and research findings into cohesive narratives.

Dr. Bukantz founded the Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the University of South Florida, beginning in 1972. He soon recruited Richard F. Lockey, MD, and co-developed the Division, which over the years has become one of the leading training programs for the practice, research and education of allergic diseases. He contributed with USF colleagues over a range of topics, including the metabolism of theophylline and the safety and adverse effects of allergy immunotherapy. During the 1980's, when "Hospital Practice" was the 7th leading medical journal worldwide, he was the Editor. He collaborated productively within the USF community well into his 90's and left his work as an inspiration for several generations of doctors and providers.

In Memory of Samuel C. Bukantz, MD and his wife Jewell



Samuel Charles Bukantz, MD, was professor emeritus and founding director of the University of South Florida Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine. His distinguished career in academic medicine spanned more than 60 years and, helped build USF's fledgling Division of Allergy and Immunology into one of the largest, most well-respected in the world.

He was born Sept. 12, 1911 and died on October 19, 2008, age 97. Dr. Bukantz attended NYC public elementary and high schools 1917-26, and Washington Square College, NYU, graduating in 1930. Admitted to NYU College of Medicine in 1930, he won a gold medal for excellence in pathology, was elected president of his class and of Alpha Omega Alpha in his junior year and of the student organization in his senior year. At graduation, in 1934, he was awarded the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) prize for highest academic standing in his class.

From 1934 to 1938 he was intern and resident at the Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC in pathology, microbiology and internal medicine. He was president of the house staff and chairman of the Economics Committee of the Intern Council of America. That committee met with Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia and succeeded in creating the first salary for interns in the United States, \$15 a month. More importantly, he met and wooed his late wife, Jewell Williams (Bukantz), a student nurse at Mt. Sinai School of Nursing, and they were married in 1941.

In 1938 Dr. Bukantz entered private practice and was awarded a part-time fellowship in pneumonia research at Harlem Hospital by Dr. Jesse G.M. Bullowa's pneumonia research unit. From 1938 to 1940, he published several papers on the biology of pneumococcus and treatment of pneumococcal pneumonia. He was awarded a Parmalee Fellowship at Emergency Hospital, Washington, D.C., in 1940, where he completed an in vitro study of sulfonamide sensitivity.

In October 1941, Dr. Bukantz enlisted in the Army Medical Corps and was assigned to the Medical Department Professional Service School at the Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. There he developed studies on the immunology of typhus fever and malaria and developed a method to preserve sheep blood for use in complement fixation. He was discharged from the military service in October 1945.

Dr. Bukantz was awarded a fellowship in allergy in 1946, under Dr. Harry Alexander at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis; became certified in allergy; and was appointed to the faculty. He spent part of his time as Chief of Internal Medicine at the Jefferson Barracks V.A. Hospital staffed by Washington and St. Louis Universities. There he published papers on ragweed sensitivity. He also worked with Drs. Frank Dixon, David Talmage, and Gustav Dammin on the use of radioisotopes in the study of antigen distribution in animals and studied the immunologic characteristics of sputum of severely asthmatic subjects. Detection of large quantities of blood

group substance in their sputum led to later investigations of the role of these substances in synthesis of antibodies to the blood groups.

Dr. Bukantz was Medical and Research Director of the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital in Denver, CO, from 1958 to 1963. In 1963, he was appointed Director of Clinical Research of the Schering Corporation of New Jersey and in 1965, Chief of Clinical Research at Hoffman-LaRoche.

In 1967 he became Associate Professor of Medicine at NYU and began private practice in allergy at the faculty practice offices.

Dr. Bukantz joined the USF College of Medicine in 1972 as the first director of the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, and chief of the Section of Allergy at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital. He was among the handful of senior faculty who took night call at the newly opened Haley VA Hospital before the internal medicine residency program was filled. His wife Jewell, a nurse, assisted him at the USF Clinics and helped trained some of the earliest USF fellows in the specialty.

When Dr. Bukantz stepped down from clinical activities in 1983, he was succeeded by his protégé Richard F. Lockey, MD.

"He has been an excellent mentor, great physician and my best friend," said Dr. Lockey, Distinguished University Health Professor and Director of Allergy and Immunology. "Dr. Bukantz is one of the brightest people I've had the pleasure to know and the best at teaching me how to write concisely for scientific publications. He always offered invaluable feedback. The Division of Allergy and Immunology will not be the same without him. He will be sincerely missed and remembered with respect, affection, and gratitude."

Dr. Bukantz had said that one of his proudest accomplishments was helping build USF's fledgling allergy division into one of the largest and most well-respected in the world. "Our fellowship program has trained many physicians in the specialty of allergy and immunology who practice in Florida and are leaders in the field," he said.

The Division's faculty members have trained scientists who are involved in allergy and immunology research throughout the world.

Dr. Bukantz earned a lifetime of awards for his outstanding contributions to research in allergy and immunology, medical education and community service. In 1992, he was named Laureate of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians — the state chapter's highest honor. Other awards include the Distinguished Clinician Award from the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology in 1991, the USF Distinguished Professor of Medicine Award, and the Henry Hyde Salter Award from the American College of Allergy and Clinical Immunology in 1979. Dr. Bukantz served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Allergy and Immunology* and as the editor of *Hospital Practice*. He has edited numerous books with Dr. Lockey, including *Fundamentals of Immunology and Allergy*, the *Primer on Allergic and Immunological Diseases* published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, and the third edition of *Allergens and Allergen Immunotherapy*, a text used extensively by allergy training programs worldwide.

In June 2004, Dr. Bukantz retired following a distinguished career in academic medicine spanning more than 60 years. He remained active in the Division until the year before his death.

- Story contributed by Richard F. Lockey, MD

Below: Picture of Samuel C. Bukantz and Jewell Williams Bukantz

