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Edited by Jan Busby-Whitehead, Samuel C. Durso, Christine Arenson, Rebecca Elon, Mary H. Palmer, William Reichel
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Reichel's Care of the Elderly

Reichel's Care of the Elderly

Clinical Aspects of Aging

Eighth Edition

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In Memoriam

William Reichel, MD
May 21, 1937–May 14, 2021

Dr. William Reichel was an extraordinary person and geriatrician whose life's work was to foster and encourage the ethical health care of elderly people. He was a visionary leader in the field of geriatric medicine who foresaw the burgeoning growth of the older population and helped create the medical specialty areas of American geriatric medicine, post-acute and long-term care medicine, and family medicine.

Dr. Reichel received his M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1961 and completed an internship at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont in 1962. He became an assistant resident in 1962 and then served as Chief Resident from 1963 to 1965 at Stanford University Medical Center. During 1965–6 he was Chief Resident in Medicine in the Unit for Research in Aging at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York City.

In 1966, Dr. Reichel joined the US Public Health Service, achieving the rank of lieutenant commander before leaving in 1968. During that time, he worked as a researcher for the Gerontology Research Center at the National Institutes of Health and as a clinician at the old Baltimore City Hospitals, Baltimore, Maryland. From 1972 to 1988 he served as the family medicine residency director, outpatient services director, and inaugural chair of the Department of Family Practice at Franklin Square Medical Center in Baltimore.

From 1989 to 1995, Dr. Reichel was Director of the Department of Geriatrics and Aging Service at the Boston Evening Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts; in that same period he also served as a clinical professor of community health. He was Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health from 1995 to 1998 at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. From 1990 to 2000 he was Adjunct Professor of Family Medicine at Brown University School of Medicine in Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Reichel contributed significantly to the growth of geriatric medicine as a specialty field through his service to the American Geriatrics Society, for which he served on the Board of Directors, then as President and Chair of the Board.

In 1978, he edited the first edition of *Care of the Elderly: Clinical Aspects of Aging*. He remained as editor through the fourth edition and became editor emeritus for the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth editions.

Although we are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Reichel, we have been honored to work with him as colleagues on the current edition, and we are humbled by his incisive mind and generous and kind humanity. It is therefore with immense gratitude, affection, and admiration that we dedicate this eighth edition to our beloved friend and mentor, and pioneering champion of geriatric medicine.

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