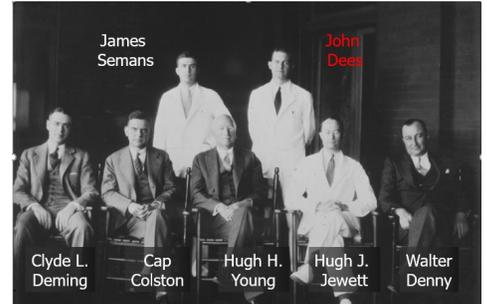




JOHN ESSARY DEES, MD LECTURESHIP

In 1939, John Dees was the first faculty recruited to Duke Urology by Dr. Alyea, and by all accounts he became the work-horse of the division and was known as a master surgeon. Growing up in Louisiana as the son of an urologist and a brother the same, he was destined for the field. He trained at Hopkins with Hugh Hampton Young with a group of similar graduates who became future leaders and legends in the field, Hugh J. Jewett, Ormond S. Culp and Wyland F. Leadbetter.

His wife Susan, who became one of the world's leading pediatric allergists and immunologists, accompanied him. He too became world renowned for his contributions, and in recognition was elected to membership of the two most prestigious societies, the American Association of Genitourinary Surgeons (AAGUS) and the Clinical Society of Genitourinary Surgeons.



Dr. Dees brought with him from Hopkins not only his surgical expertise but also a profound interest in research. He published 50 important manuscripts during his career, and indeed later in his career, the urology research laboratory was named for him. His early research interests were in neuropathic bladder and particularly electro-stimulation of the urinary bladder. This research was done in the early 1940s but at that time was not of interest to urology and was rejected for publication, only to be eventually published in the *Journal of Urology* in 1965! Coming from Hopkins, the hot bed of interest in prostate surgery, he brought this interest with him and continued to popularize varying techniques which he elaborated, particularly the perineal approach to prostatectomy for both benign and malignant disease. He was a true innovator, introducing coagulum pyelolithotomy in the early 1940s to assist in the removal of stag horn renal calculi. He published a trans-symphyseal approach to the urethra in 1959 but was never credited for this. His interest in bladder dysfunction led him to introduce the use of instilled mineral oil into the bladder in patients with infected residual urine. Twenty cases were reported in 1969. Perhaps he is best known for his part in the development of the Young-Dees procedure for bladder neck reconstruction particularly in epispadiac children.

Despite his accomplishments, Jim Glenn who knew him well described him as a diffident, self-effacing and shy man. He came into his own when surrounded by his much loved family and when hunting or fishing. He 'had a place' near the coast in Eastern North Carolina to which he would escape with one or two residents or colleagues for a weekend to pursue this love.



In addition to being a master surgeon and innovator, Dr. Dees was a patient advocate and served as a role model for generations of residents and fellows.

The John E. Dees, MD Lectureship honors the legacy of Dr. Dees and provides support for an annual lecture by outstanding experts in the field of Reconstructive Urology.