

Earl H. Wood, M.D., Ph.D.

Doctor Wood was born on January 1, 1912, in Mankato, Minnesota. He received the degrees of B.A. (1934) from Macalester College and M.D. and Ph.D. (1941) from the University of Minnesota. After completing a pharmacology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and teaching briefly at Harvard, Doctor Wood joined Mayo Clinic as a research assistant in 1942. Working with colleagues in Mayo's Aeromedical Unit, Doctor Wood studied the physiology and methods for prevention of pathophysiologic effects of positive acceleration experienced by fighter and dive bomber pilots during World War II. Using the Mayo Human Centrifuge, he and his associates developed a simple antigravity suit for the prevention of blackout in pilots. After being appointed a Mayo Clinic consultant in physiology in 1946, Doctor Wood headed Mayo's Cardiovascular Laboratory and became a Career Investigator of the American Heart Association in 1962. He advanced through the academic ranks to become professor at the University of Minnesota, Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, in 1951 and at Mayo Medical School in 1973. Doctor Wood retired from Mayo Clinic in January 1982 and died on March 18, 2009.

(Provided by the Mayo Historical Unit, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota).