

Joseph B. Miller, MD, affectionately referred to as “Doctor Joe”, grew up on the south-side of town, on Texas St, not far from downtown Mobile. His older brother Morris was a chemist, so he planned on pursuing that career also. However, he decided to pursue a career in medicine instead.

When he attended Murphy, Class of 1937, he was active in the Science Club. After graduating from Murphy, he attended Spring Hill College for pre-med, and took several extra courses at the University of Alabama. He received his MD degree from LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans, then pursued specialized training at Sea View and Bellevue Hospitals in New York.

He discovered a more effective method for delivering the new “miracle drug” streptomycin, to terminal patients with severe progressive pulmonary tuberculosis, which resulted in a 100% cure rate, with viable patients. He created a special “enhancing solution”, which he added to the antibiotic to modify its physical properties, and then aerosolized it, by nebulizer, just like breathing treatments are given today. Because the antibiotic was delivered directly to the lungs... the site of the infection with very little absorption into the blood stream, this meant that the dose could be increased 20,000 times higher than by injection, without toxic effects.

Because the “enhancing solution” loosened and dissolved mucous, it also worked extremely well for patients with COPD and pneumonia. This marvelous new medication, containing the first safe and effective detergent/surfactant ever developed for internal administration in humans, was later patented, and marketed under the name Alevaire®. It remained in use in the United States for 19 years, and 50 years later, it is still in use in many countries. Alevaire®, as it turns out, would be the first of his many discoveries.

Dr. Miller suffered from many allergies, and this encouraged him to focus on discovering better treatment methodology for improved results. He also recognized allergic symptoms in patients not thought to have allergies. After hearing a lecture on allergy techniques by another doctor and making discoveries on his own, Dr. Miller discovered that there were many conditions that could be improved with allergy shots. He learned that headaches could be stopped by neutralizing a patient’s allergy and tried neutralizing symptoms of illnesses like influenza, by using same techniques. He found it also worked with hormonal illnesses and made further discoveries for the relief of migraine, ADHD, irritable bowel syndrome and Crohn’s Disease, shingles, fever blisters, and others. Other medical professionals who attended his seminars had success in treating their patients with Dr. Miller's techniques.

The world-wide impact of Joseph Miller's medical career make him a most deserving inductee into our Hall of Fame.