

Dr. Charles K. Whitehair

[Dr. Whitehair's obituary appeared in the January 15, 1995 issue of JAVMA, as an AVMA Honor Roll Member. It is supplemented here with information from his Lansing State Journal obituary and the ACVN archives.]

Dr. Whitehair (KSU' 40), 77, East Lansing, MI, Nov 14, 1994.

Dr. Charles "Ken" Whitehair earned his veterinary degree in 1940 at Kansas State. He also earned a master's degree and doctoral degree at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Whitehair was professor emeritus of pathology at Michigan State University. He also taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Illinois. He began teaching pathology at Michigan State in 1956.

"He was a unique individual, combining his expertise in the area of nutrition research with the discipline pathology," said Janver Krehbiel, Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs for the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine.

Between his academic posts, he conducted research at the Rowett Research Institute in Scotland and at the Charles Pfizer Company. Dr. Whitehair established a reputation for his research in the areas of nutritional and metabolic diseases and the interrelationships of nutritional factors and infectious agents in the causation of disease. He was a pioneer in the development of specific-pathogen-free pigs for research and in advanced techniques for controlling disease in livestock and laboratory animals.

He earned many honors in his lifetime, including the Distinguished Service Award from Kansas State University, the first American Feed Manufacturers Association Award (presented at the AVMA convention), the Distinguished Faculty Award from MSU, and the Senior Research Award from the MSU chapter of Sigma Xi. He was a past president, vice president, and served on the executive council of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Disease.

Retired at the time of his death, Dr. Whitehair was a founding member of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition in 1988 and an honor roll member of the AVMA.

Memorials can be made to the St Thomas Aquinas Education Fund, 955 Alton Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823.