

Richard McDougall Background



Richard McDougall was born and raised in Mercer County, Pa., in a rural farming hamlet of 100 people, where his father taught grade school in a two-room building. McDougall's high school was small, with an enrollment of about 125 students. After graduating from high school, he entered the U.S. Army. His assignment included a one-year tour in Japan immediately after the armistice was signed. He was a member of a Military Government Team stationed in Nagano.

Following his military service, McDougall earned a bachelor's degree in health education in 1951 from Pennsylvania State University. The following year, he received a diploma in physical therapy from the D.T. Watson School of Physiatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. McDougall accepted a position as the director of physical therapy, working with Murray B. Ferderber, M.D., in Pittsburgh. After five years, he started a successful private practice in addition to serving as the director of physical therapy at the John H. Kane Hospital in Pittsburgh.

In 1962, McDougall accepted a position as chief physical therapist in Rehabilitation Service at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center. He earned a master's degree in education from UK in 1965. He then was appointed as the first chair of the Department of Physical Therapy in the College of Allied Health Professions, serving in that position from 1965 to 1982. While at UK, he excelled in many facets of professional activity. McDougall provided consultation to the Division of Licensure and Regulation for the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources, University of Louisville Physical Therapy Program, and the Jefferson and Somerset Community College physical therapist assistant programs. He served two consecutive terms as president of the Kentucky Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association from 1975 to 1978 and was chair of the Kentucky State Board of Physical Therapy in 1981. In 1986, he was a part of the task force to establish the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy. In 1987 he served on the Federation's board of directors. His honors include the Outstanding Physical Therapist Award (1978-APTA Kentucky Chapter) and the Lucy Blair Service Award (1980-APTA).