**James Kelly – A Legacy**

**By John Paat, MD**

Dr. James Kelly, a general internist in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Professor of Medicine, retired from the PDC in October after a long and distinguished service with the Duke Medicine and the Durham medical community.

Dr. Kelly earned a BS in Biology, magna cum laude, from the University of South Carolina in 1966. He was in the Navy and completed a research clerkship in clinical virology at Duke between 1969 and 1970. He received his medical degree from Duke University School of Medicine in 1970 with honors.

He remained in Durham and was a founding physician of the Durham Internal Medicine Associates practice. As an active, successful physician, he was repeatedly recognized as one of the top 10 general internists in North Carolina. Through his work, he was instrumental in the growth and success of the practice as he held multiple administrative roles within the group serving as practice vice president of personnel between 1978 - 1990, executive vice president from 1990 -2006 and President and CEO of the practice from 2006 through 2007.

Jim was a physician leader at the former Durham Regional Hospital (now Duke Regional Hospital) and was active on multiple executive hospital committees. His roles included Chairman of the Department of Medicine Quality Assurance Committee and Chairman of Division of General Internal Medicine.

Jim was engaged in all levels of teaching. He was past coordinator of the Internal Medicine training program for Family Medicine between Duke and Durham Regional Hospital. He has received multiple Teacher of the Year awards and additional recognition for his excellence in teaching.

In 1997, Jim completed an MBA in Health Services Management from the Fuqua School of Business and was active in multiple physician organizations. He served as chairman of the management committee and executive committee for Prima Health, an independent physician association linking Duke and community physicians. He served on the Duke University Health System Board of Directors from 2000 to 2004

Jim formally joined Duke in 2007. He created and was the Medical Director for the Duke Signature Care practice in 2007 where he continued to be a well-respected, busy general internist.

Despite a busy professional career, Jim has been active with various outreach activities. He served as a representative of the Duke Chapel Choir to Poland, Czech Republic, China and Spain. He has participated in international medical missions to Honduras and has been active with the Lincoln Community Health Center.

Jim was born and raised in Columbia, SC. He married Kay Frances French, his longtime best friend and sweetheart in 1965.  Kay completed her RN studies at Columbia Hospital in Columbia, SC, and worked at the VA and Duke Hospitals, most recently in the Surgical PDC assisting with endoscopy procedures. Jim and Kay have two children, James Reginald Kelly, Jr,-- a Duke Graduate and currently a Senior Director at Gilead Pharmaceuticals where he oversees development of Oncology treatments—and Kristin Rae Kelly Karas, a Dartmouth alum who is a Montessori evaluator and founder of St. Mark’s Montessori preschool in Wilmington, NC.  Kristin and her husband Stephen are the parents of Katherine Rebecca Karas (Duke 2012), and twins Matthew and David. Matthew recently graduated with distinction from UNC and is in a gap year doing research in Biology at the Dingle Lab at Carolina.  David graduates from the Culinary Institute of America in February 2015 and is a first level Sommelier.

Jim will remain busy volunteering his services for the free clinics for migrant workers in the North Carolina under the auspices of the Appalachian Regional Health Services and other opportunities to be of use around the state.  Jim also notes that Jake, their silver schnauzer, will continue to keep him active and busy.

Jim’s contribution to the health of the Durham and Duke Community has been immense and he will be missed by his patients and colleagues.