

Icon of the issue



Reed O. Dingman (1906–1985)

Reed O. Dingman

Dr. Reed Dingman was a giant in the field of Plastic Surgery. He was a doubly qualified Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon, as well as a Plastic surgeon.

He got his DDS in Oral Surgery from the University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, as well as a master of science from the same school. He then proceeded to achieve his M.D from the University of Michigan, School of Medicine.

After completing his residency in Oral Surgery in the University of Michigan, he was certified by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery in 1940. He then proceeded to a surgical internship at the Barnes Hospital, Washington University, School of Medicine, and then subsequently trained in Plastic Surgery under John. W. Kemper and Ferris Smith. The American Board of Plastic Surgery formally certified him in 1949.

In 1964, he developed the section of plastic surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He continued as head for 12 years, and his successor was William Grabb. He continued as Professor Emeritus. Owing to the untimely death of Dr. Grabb in 1982, he returned to head the section for two more years.

Honors and achievements are as follows:^[1]

- President of the American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons
- President of the Plastic Surgery Educational Foundation

- President of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
- Chairman of the American Board of Plastic Surgery
- Hon. Doctorate, University of Miami School of Medicine
- Clinician of the year and Honors award winner of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons
- Honorary Presidential Citation from the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
- Distinguished Alumni award from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Dingman was the member of several societies and a visiting professor worldwide^[2]... Harvard University, University of Athens and University of Capetown, to name a few.

He published more than 150 articles and chapters in textbooks. He published the book 'Surgery of Facial Fractures' along with Paul Natvig, in 1964. He also wrote the chapter on 'Facial Injuries and Repair' in the Text Book on Plastic Surgery, edited by John Marquis Converse. He also made contributions to the treatment of mandibular prognathism and surgery of the meniscus of the temporomandibular joint.^[3] He also served as an Associate Editor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery journal.

We also remember him for designing several surgical instruments, which still serve us well today, the most notable being the mouth gag for cleft palate, elevators for facial bone fractures, etc.

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The University of Michigan has formed a Reed O. Dingman Society, in his honor and memory.

Another aspect of his life, which may be relatively unknown, was reported by Millard,^[1] in that he was an athlete in college and a boys camp boxing instructor in the summer. He also used to make extra money by winning boxing bouts on Saturday nights!

Truly, Dr. Dingman had a rich and fruitful life. His contributions to the field of Plastic Surgery, especially concerning the facial bones, cannot be understated. He was truly a giant in our field.

(Reed O. Dingman, Picture source : http://surgery.med.umich.edu/portal/about/surgical_innovations/history.shtml).

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