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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veteran Cook County Hospital black physician, Leonidas H. Berry, M.S., M.D., has won international recognition for his contribution to the teaching, research and practice of stomach and intestinal diseases.

Dr. Berry, a pioneer gastrointestinal endoscopist and senior author and editor of the comprehensive book, Gastrointestinal Pan-Endoscopy, has been given the prestigious Schindler Award by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. The presentation was recently made before an audience of 2,000 gastroenterologists from all over the world during the annual Digestive Disease Week at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto, Canada.

Dr. Berry, a graduate of Rush Medical College of the University of Chicago, served on the voluntary unsalaried attending staff of Cook County Hospital for 28 years. He now is senior attending physician emeritus at Cook County and senior attending physician at Michael Reese, and Provident Hospitals. He is also clinical associate professor emeritus at the University of Illinois Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine and was formerly chief of Cook County Hospital's Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Service. Until recently, Dr. Berry was Professor of Gastroenterology and Endoscopy at the Cook County Graduate School of Medicine and is now member of its Trustee Board.

Rudolf Schindler was the inventor of the first practical gastroscope which allows physicians to observe, take pictures and biopsies of the lining of the stomach and other parts of the digestive tract through a periscope-like flexible tube with an electrical light at its tip. The instrument enables diagnosis of diseases which are not reached by x-ray.

Dr. Berry and Dr. Schindler worked together at the University of Chicago, Billings Hospital, and Provident Hospital soon after Dr. Schindler first came to America from his native Germany in 1935. Their association was made possible through an affiliation between Provident Hospital and the University of Chicago. At that time, Dr. Berry was a young chief of digestive diseases at Provident.

Dr. Berry is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, American College of Gastroenterology, and the New York Academy of Medicine. He holds memberships in the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the French National Society of Gastroenterology, Chilean Society of Gastroenterology and the Japan Endoscopy Society and is Past President of the National Medical Association. He is also widely known for leadership in productive voluntary community health programs.

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For further information, contact the Office of Public Information, 633-7401 or 633-7436.

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