Obituary--Linda A. Fisher

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OBITUARY

Linda A. Fisher

Linda A. Fisher, MD, 58, former director of the Fairfax County Health Department, in Fairfax, VA died Monday, 23 January 2006 at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD of complications following a heart transplant. A resident of Annandale, VA for the past five years, she had resided in St. Louis from 1975 until 2000.

Originally from Westfield, NJ, Dr. Fisher received an undergraduate degree from Douglass College, the women’s division of Rutgers University. She earned a medical degree from Harvard University, and a master of public health degree from the St. Louis University School of Public Health. From 1975 until 1978 she completed residency training at The Jewish Hospital of St. Louis, and then practiced general internal medicine for a dozen years in St. Louis, MO. She served as the Director of Ambulatory Care of St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis from 1978 until 1984.

Board certified in two fields, internal medicine and preventive medicine, Dr. Fisher was the Chief Physician of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department from 1978 until 1988. From 1984 until 2000 she was the Chief Medical Officer of St. Louis County. The highly visible spokeswoman for the department, she communicated with the print and electronic media about public health issues. The first woman physician to serve on the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts, she received the KMOX-Suburban Journals Woman of Achievement Award in 1995, and the Community Service Award given by the American Medical Women’s Association in 1992.

For her work in educating the public and professionals about AIDS, she received the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council’s Government Achievement Award in 1988, and the Ken Alvord Distinguished Community Service Award of the National Association of Medical Communicators in 1998. The author of many articles, she received the Missouri Public Health Association’s Publication Award in 1994.

Dr. Fisher was an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the Washington University School of Medicine from 1978 until 2000, and an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at the St. Louis University School of Medicine from 1979 until 2000. She served as the director of the Fairfax

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County Health Department from 2000-2001 and left that post to begin a career as a writer and editor. She also was a popular lecturer for genealogy organizations and explained the impact of nineteenth-century epidemics on communities.

A fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Fisher was a member of the American Medical Association, the American Medical Writers Association, and the International Women’s Forum. A member of the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society from 1979 until 1998, she served as editor of St. Louis Metropolitan Medicine. She was elected to the Douglass (College) Society for Distinguished Achievement in 1992. She was a member of the Fairfax County Medical Society.

Dr. Fisher was an active member of the ADE and a graduate of Camp Edit. She was a recipient of a travel grant and attended the 2003 ADE Annual Meeting in Chicago. Dr. Fisher had published two articles in *Documentary Editing*, an article about Missouri businessman Joseph J. Mersman and an article on his sister, Agnes Hikock. The Mersman diary project will soon be a published edition but the Hikock project remains unfinished.