

The logo for the Turner Syndrome Society of Canada features the text "Turner Syndrome" in a large, blue, serif font, with "Society of Canada" in a smaller, blue, serif font below it. The text is set against a light blue background with a wavy, abstract design in shades of blue and yellow at the bottom.

Turner Syndrome Society of Canada

Dr. Henry Turner

Turner Syndrome is a condition that affects about one in every 2,500 females. It was first described in 1938 by Dr. Henry Turner who observed a set of common physical features in some of his patients. However, it was not until 1960 that a chromosomal abnormality was found.

Who Was Dr. Turner?

Oklahoma City is where Dr. Turner lived, worked and in 1938, published a paper in *The Journal of Endocrinology* describing Turner Syndrome. Dr. Turner was born in 1892 in Harrisburg, Illinois, married in 1923, and had two daughters. At the time of his death he had five grandchildren.

Dr. Turner did an internship at Louisville City Hospital under Dr. John Moore, also one of the pioneers of endocrinology, in the metabolism unit. In 1930 he went to Vienna and London to study neurology. He became the resident radiographer, neurologist and endocrinologist for the University Hospitals in Oklahoma. In 1925 Dr. Turner went into private practice in internal medicine and in 1929 began to limit his practice strictly to endocrine diseases. Dr. Turner had teaching appointments at the University College of Medicine. He was an instructor from 1924 to 1928 and became an assistant professor of medicine from 1928 till 1949. He continued to be actively involved in medical research in disorders of the anterior pituitary and related problems of growth. He had a great interest in neuro-endocrine or the effects the nervous system has in regulating hormone secretion. He also had a great interest in ovarian failure. In 1938 Dr. Turner described the syndrome which commonly bears his name - Turner Syndrome. He also described the first treatment for Turner Syndrome.

Dr. Turner attained full clinical professorship in 1949. From 1947 to 1949 he was the associate Dean of the medical school. He was also on the faculty of the American College of Physicians, Post-Graduate Courses and Education and a faculty member of the Endocrine Society Post-Graduate Assembly. He was on the initial board which decided, when "Endocrine" became a specialty of its own, the design of the curriculum which would be necessary to complete a fellowship in endocrinology.

Dr. Turner wrote three major reviews: "The Diseases of the Endocrine Glands" in 1941, "Ovarian Dwarfism" in 1946, and then "Ovarian Agenesis and the Rudimentary Ovaries."

Dr. Turner was well recognized on an international level as a forerunner in the science of endocrinology. He was named honorary member and chief of the Endocrine Societies of Mexico, Brazil, Columbia and Haiti.

He retired in 1969 and died a year later in 1970.

Among his many Posts, Honours and Awards were:

- President of the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Southern Medical Association
- President and Treasurer of the American Therapeutic Society
- Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of the Endocrine Society of America for 25 years
- President of the National Society of Nuclear Medicine from 1959 to 1960
- Executive Committee and Chairman of the Research Advisory Board, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
- Designated "professor extraordinaire", the National University of Mexico in 1941
- The sharing award for scholarship and endocrinology in 1959
- Certificate of Merit from the Endocrine Society in 1961
- Seale-Harris medal for distinguished service from the Southern Medical Association in 1961

In an excerpt from Dr. Turner's departing address to the Endocrine Society of America he says, "It is more important now, than ever before, that physicians participate in public activities and cooperate in the promotion of projects which seem to have community value. We must function as citizens in order to expect consideration from the law-makers. We must have more than a superficial knowledge of the machinery of government. It is imperative that we demand from all of our legislatures, senators and congressmen, our local representatives and local community activists that their views on health legislation be considered. If we are to survive, we must alter the viewpoint of the patient by familiarizing him and the public with the facts and the truth. Let each and every one of us assume the responsibility of preserving the independence of medicine."