

BLOOD BROTHER

Dr. Charles Drew
(1904-1950)

Surgeon — Pioneer in Blood Plasma

Dr. Charles Drew was the man who figured out a way to store blood so that it would be ready immediately when needed. It took years of research to solve the problem of preserving blood after it was donated.

Born in Washington, D.C. in 1904 Charles Drew took every opportunity to learn that came his way. He graduated from Amherst College in 1926. He received his M.D. degree from McGill Medical College in 1933 and was awarded a fellowship to Columbia University Medical School in 1935.

After many months of research, he found that blood could be stored longer if it were put in a refrigerator at a certain temperature. Handling blood more gently immediately after it was collected made it last longer.

One day, Dr. Drew looked carefully at a container of seven-day old blood. The dark layer of red cells was on the bottom of the bottle; the lighter colored liquid called plasma was on top. He decided that plasma could solve the problem of storing and reusing human blood.

On April 1st 1950, Charles Drew was on his way to an annual conference of doctors at Tuskegee, Alabama. His car overturned in an accident near Burlington, North Carolina. He was rushed, bleeding, to the nearest hospital. They were "sorry," but they could not take Dr. Drew. The hospital was for whites only. By the time he was taken to another hospital, Dr. Charles Richard Drew was dead.



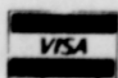
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