Kenneth M. Earle, M.D., an internationally-renowned neuropathologist, was born in Jacksonville, Texas on 29 December, 1919.

The salient features of his professional development include graduation from Rice University in 1942 (BA) and the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston in 1945 (M.D.), followed by fellowship training in Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology with Wilder Penfield at the Montreal Neurological Institute in 1952.

Penfield and his associate, Jerzy ("George") Olszewski, exerted a profound and enduring influence on his decision to become a neuropathologist, rather than a neurosurgeon.

Following an appointment as an instructor in pathology at UCLA, he returned to Galveston, where he served as a professor of pathology, assistant Dean and Dean of the Medical School from 1953-1962. During his tenure at Galveston, he created a series of detailed lectures in neuropathology, designed to assist residents and fellows in neurology, neurosurgery and pathology in their respective specialty board examinations.

In 1962 he was recruited as Chief, Department of Neuropathology at the prestigious Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington D.C.

During his Tenure at the AFIP, he organized a stellar staff of young civilian and military neuropathologists who, collectively, published an immense number of seminal papers in neuropathology.

During that time, he augmented his lecture series on neuropathology, which evolved into the Annual Neuropathology Review or “Short Course” in Neuropathology at the
AFIP, supported by the cream of local and national guest lecturers over a period of decades.

Dr. Earle subsequently established the Department of Pathology at the inauguration of The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and, later, assumed responsibilities as the first Executive Director of the American Registry of Pathology, in support of the AFIP.

Dr. Earle trained thousands of neurologists, neurosurgeons and pathologists during his career, including more than thirty (30) academic professors of neuropathology and several department chairs.

His legacy lives on, as the current course offering represents a direct extension of the Annual Neuropathology Review, sponsored with great success under the aegis of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, which is no longer extant as a military organization.

Despite the demise of Dr. Earle and the AFIP, the current annual review course, in content and faculty, is arisen anew, phoenix-like, from the ashes of the past. This course was named in his honor, following his death, and the current version continues to honor him.

Fortunately, this new review course continues to excel in the exalted traditions of Dr. Earle and the AFIP, in support of new generations of interested clinicians and pathologists.

“Something Old is New Again.”