

G. Lombard Kelly Lecture

Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

The G. Lombard Kelly Lecture was established in the Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy at the Medical College of Georgia to honor the late Dr. George Lombard Kelly, a 1924 graduate of the Medical College. Dr. Kelly was a faculty member in the anatomy department from 1927 to 1953 and served as department chair from 1929 to 1935. He was a gifted anatomist and conducted research in reproductive biology. He



firmly believed that the Medical College needed robust research to survive as a medical school. Dr. Kelly was a staunch advocate for recruiting fine doctors and scientists. He formed the Dugas Club, a forum for faculty-student discussions of medical research. In 1935, Dr. Kelly was appointed dean of the institution. At the time, the Medical College, like many medical schools, was under scrutiny for the quality of its programs. Dr. Kelly's unwavering faith in the institution and in his colleagues energized a valiant campaign across the state to garner funds and support to revitalize the institution. Dr. Kelly became the first president of MCG in 1950. He is credited with obtaining approval from the Georgia legislature in 1951 to build the Eugene Talmadge Memorial Hospital, known today at Augusta University Medical Center. Dr. Kelly was MCG President Emeritus until his death in 1972.

The **G. Lombard Kelly Lecture**, established in 2017, is organized by graduate students in the Cellular Biology and Anatomy PhD program. They select and invite the speaker and oversee all aspects of the visit. Recipients of the lectureship are outstanding scientists and academicians who have contributed immeasurably to science and medicine, continuing the tradition and legacy of Dr. Kelly. The Kelly lectureship was formally endowed in 2020 with the hope that the vision, determination, commitment, and perseverance of Dr. Kelly will be an inspiration to current and future graduate students and faculty for many years to come. That same year the Cellular Biology and Anatomy seminar room was named for Dr. Kelly in recognition of the high-quality scientific discoveries that are presented in the annual departmental seminar series.