Dr. Alton Ochsner’s Creed

1. Develop to the utmost one’s God-given talents.
2. Utilize every waking moment to improve one’s self, spiritually, educationally, or physically.
3. Be honest with others and with yourself.
4. Be loyal. Loyalty is one of the finest of all attributes and it is found so infrequently.
5. Leisure, although beneficial, is too frequently abused because of the inability to utilize it in a beneficial manner. Such instances cause waste and may result in detrimental excesses, such as alcoholism and boredom. Mental activity delays deterioration of the mind as physical activity prevents muscular atrophy.
6. Develop and maintain a positive attitude. Determination and industriousness result in unexpected positive results. Live every moment, minute, hour and day to the fullest. Strive to make each day better than the previous one. Life is not eternal and every moment is so precious; none should be wasted.

Ochsner Archives Collection serves as the repository for selected materials and artifacts about our history of care to the community. Our staff collects, organizes, preserves, and provides access to historically significant records of Ochsner. We seek documents and artifacts to complete the historical picture of our institution. These items may include manuscripts, reports, medical tools, oral history interviews, and unique Ochsner memorabilia.

To learn more contact:
Courtney Masters, Archivist and Archives Collection Administrator
Ochsner Medical Library
504-842-3760 | MedicalLibrary@ochsner.org
There was overwhelming opposition by the physicians, surgeons, and dentists of New Orleans regarding the establishment of the Ochsner Clinic. The physicians preferred their independent practices and felt a "clinic" setting was unfair competition.

As such, on Holy Thursday night in 1941, each of the five founders was delivered a small leather bag with 30 silver dimes and a note that read:

To help pay for your clinic....
From the Physicians, Surgeons, & Dentists of New Orleans.

The obvious implication was that the founders were Judases.

The original bag, coins, and note sent to Dr. Francis E. LeJeune, Sr., has been preserved in the Ochsner Archives as a gracious gift from Dr. and Mrs. Francis E. LeJeune, Jr.

---

Edward William Alton Ochsner, MD
Dr. Ochsner, a founder of the Ochsner Clinic, was devoted to medicine and research. He was among the first doctors to discover a link between smoking and lung cancer.

Edgar Burns, MD
Dr. Burns, a pioneer New Orleans urologist and a founder of the Ochsner Clinic, had one of the strongest work ethics in the city.

Guy Alvin Caldwell, MD
Dr. Caldwell, one of the finest orthopedic surgeons in the South, was an accomplished businessman and writer. He authored the first history of the Ochsner Clinic.

Francis Ernest “Duke” LeJeune, MD
Founder and otolaryngologist, Dr. LeJeune, the only Louisiana native among the founders.

Curtis Tyrone, MD
Dr. Tyrone, the energetic gynecologist who became the fifth founder of the Ochsner Clinic. Because of his popularity, he brought many new patients to the clinic.

---

“It is essential that one remember that in the practice of medicine one is treating a patient who is ill, rather than treating a disease. One must never disregard the individual.”


---

On January 1942, the Ochsner Clinic opened in the Physicians and Surgeons Building at the corner of Prytania and Aline Streets in New Orleans.

Camp Plauché (also known as Splinter Village) was the original location of the Ochsner Foundation Hospital, photographed in 1947. Splinter Village was located at the foot of the Huey P. Long Bridge.

On June 12, 1954, Ochsner Foundation hospital moved from Splinter Village to its current location on Jefferson Highway.