

## Sheila M. Muldoon, M.D.



Dr. Sheila Muldoon (USU Photo)

Dr. Sheila Muldoon joined the USU [Anesthesiology](#) faculty in 1977. An internationally recognized expert in malignant hyperthermia, Muldoon earned her medical degree from the University College of Dublin National University College of Medicine in 1963, and later went to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where she conducted research on the pharmacology and physiology of smooth muscle. Ten years after her arrival at USU, she was appointed chair of the Department of Anesthesiology.

In the early 1980s, Muldoon established a collaboration with the Anesthesiology department at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington D.C. to offer diagnostic MH testing to non-military families in the Washington area. Though Muldoon stepped down from her position as chair of the USU Anesthesia department in 2001 to devote more time to the problems of MH, the collaboration continues to this day.

While at USU, Muldoon found that the military was concerned about the implications of the diagnosis of MH in military personnel, and in part, this spurred her fascination to take a closer look into the subject. She established a cadre of excellent clinical and laboratory scientists at USU to work with her on the problems of MH at every level. She founded the Malignant Hyperthermia Diagnostic Laboratory at USU and was active with

the Malignant Hyperthermia Association of the U.S. (MHAUS) for many years. Muldoon's contributions to the understanding and management of Malignant Hyperthermia over the past four decades have earned her a huge debt of gratitude from patients, clinicians, and scientists alike.

As a longstanding member of the board and former Vice President for Scientific Affairs for the MHAUS, Muldoon has been a beacon to those interested in researching MH, guiding, supporting, and training many clinicians and scientists who would go on to make their own contributions to the field of MH and medicine as a whole. She has also served on the MH Hotline for 20 years, and has been a strong supporter of the activities and goals of the North American MH Registry, helping to guide many of the important studies that have emanated from the Registry.

The [Malignant Hyperthermia Diagnostic Laboratory](#) that Muldoon established at USU has not only sponsored investigations in the molecular genetics of MH and described the relationship between unusual clinical presentations of the disorder and the pathophysiology of the disorder – the center has also performed muscle biopsy diagnostic MH testing for those in the military since the early 1980s. The laboratory is one of only a few in North America that has worked to perfect the muscle biopsy diagnostic test, performed original research in animals who are MH susceptible, explored the molecular genetics of MH, as well as the cellular biochemistry of the disorder, all through the leadership of Muldoon. In addition, she has authored close to 100 original publications in peer-reviewed literature, organized educational symposia, and has lectured widely on MH.

In recognition of her contributions to the Uniformed Services University and to the promotion of excellence in medical education and research, Dr. Muldoon was awarded the prestigious Carol J. Johns medal by the university.