

Mayo Clinic Heritage Films Discussion Guide

Always More to Learn The Spirit of Education at Mayo Clinic



The founders of Mayo Clinic set a high value on lifelong learning. Throughout their careers, they traveled extensively to watch master surgeons at work and look for ways to better serve their patients. They shared their knowledge freely, welcoming thousands of doctors who came to learn at what one of them called "a clearinghouse for the best work of the world's hospitals."

This film tells stories of people experiencing the clinic's spirit of education in its formative years. A scientist acquires the knowledge to advance her research. A physician from Australia prepares to practice a new medical specialty. Army medical personnel learn skills for the battlefields of World War I. A teenager is taught how to manage her diabetes with a new drug called insulin.

"The glory of medicine," said Dr. William J. Mayo, "is that it is constantly moving forward, that there is always more to learn."

Discussion Questions

- 1. What was your most formative educational experience?
- 2. How do you keep up with advances in your profession?
- 3. How have you helped someone in your profession learn new skills?
- 4. How have you or a family member benefited from patient education?
- 5. How do you feel about being a patient in a teaching hospital?
- 6. How do you think the current method of educating medical professionals could be improved?
- 7. What's the most effective way for people to help you learn new skills or improve the ones you have?