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### Biography

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## BIOGRAPHY



### JOSEPH CARY TOUCHSTONE

Joseph C. Touchstone was born in China, in 1921, where his father was bursar and Professor of English at Soochow University. As a result of a malaria epidemic, Joseph received high doses of quinine. The medication resulted in his loss of hearing. Subsequently, the family returned to the United States where, due to the persistence of an elementary school teacher, Joseph was in the educational mainstream. He was taught to read lips rather than sign.

Professor Touchstone received his B. S. in chemistry from Stephen F. Austin University, his M. S. in organic chemistry from Purdue University, and his Ph.D. in biochemistry / organic chemistry from St. Louis University. He worked with Dr. Edward A. Doisy at St. Louis, where he was awarded the Theelin Fund Fellowship. In 1952, he was appointed Research Associate in the Department of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Medicine, where he still remains as an Emeritus Professor. He was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and research Associate in the Harrison Department of Surgical Research in 1956 and Research professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1968; he also became the Director of the Steroid Laboratory. In 1967, he founded the Chromatography Forum of the Delaware Valley.

Dr. Touchstone has been a pioneer in chromatography throughout his professional career, covering the span of: paper, liquid, gas, HPLC, planar, and today, capillary electrophoresis. he published his first chromatography paper in the early 1950's on the separation of steroids. His early work involved the development of methods for determination of estrogens in problematic pregnancies. He was also investigating adrenal cortical response in human hypertension. These studies required him to go directly into the operating room for blood and tissue samples. He was a pioneer, as well, in the use of gas chromatography for steroid determination at the time when GC had not yet discovered the coiled column or the constant temperature oven. The columns were so long that ceiling tiles had to be removed to accommodate the tubing.

Dr. Touchstone's first venture into planar chromatography was before the advent of commercial precoated plates - a time when everyone in the field was coating their own plates and only 25% were usable. By the time the first commercial plates were readily available, he had established a reputation in the field of analytical planar chromatography. As the selection of sorbents increased, he was at the forefront of their use and application. He also investigated and published early papers on the use of and the parameters of the densitometer in planar chromatography. Concurrently with this work, he was also investigating high pressure liquid chromatography and its applications in clinical chemistry.

Professor Touchstone continues to examine chromatographic methods and is presently working on the application of capillary electrophoresis for studies of small molecules, such as estrogen and estrogen conjugates.

At this point in his career, he has published over 300 papers and 15 books, primarily regarding chromatography. He has been the recipient of many honors, including Distinguished Service Award of the Association for Thin Layer Chromatography and the Chromatography Forum of the Delaware Valley Award. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Liquid Chromatography* and the Yearbook of Chromatography.

Dr. Touchstone has always been receptive to educating and working with young people; as a result, numerous work study students, fellows, post doctoral investigators have benefitted from their association with him while in his laboratories. Some of them have gone on to their own successes in research, including some department chairmen.