In Memoriam

Dr. Silverman, editor of pediatric emergency text

A developer of resources for pediatric emergency medicine, Benjamin K. Silverman, M.D., FAAP, of Skillman, N.J., died May 17 at age 86 after a long battle with bladder cancer.

“Educator and editor; friend and mentor,” is how AAP Past President Carden Johnston, M.D., FAAP, remembers Dr. Silverman. They met when Dr. Johnston was working as a reviewer and Dr. Silverman was editor of the Advanced Pediatric Life Support materials released in 1989. Dr. Silverman also was an editor of the Textbook of Pediatric Emergency Medicine with Stephen Ludwig, M.D., FAAP, and Gary R. Fleisher, M.D., FAAP.

Dr. Silverman's academic and clinical strengths made him a powerful speaker and mentor as the field of pediatric emergency medicine was emerging, according to Dr. Johnston. “He was able to make appropriate clinical comments and had academic and clinical knowledge both at his grasp.”

In 2007, Dr. Silverman received the Jim Seidel Distinguished Service Award from the AAP Section on Pediatric Emergency Medicine for outstanding contributions to the field of pediatric emergency medicine.

He received his medical degree in 1948 from University of Maryland Medical School, completed a pediatric residency at Baltimore City/Hopkins Hospital, and residency and cardiology fellowship at Children's Hospital Boston, then served in the U.S. Air Force. In 1954, he began 30 years of primary care practice in Princeton, N.J.

After joining the pediatric emergency department of Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in 1984, he helped launch and edit some of the first materials for pediatric emergency medicine.

When his son, who had congenital heart disease, required a cardiac transplant, his family relocated to California. There, he served as professor of pediatrics and attending pediatrician in the emergency department at Harbor/UCLA School of Medicine and Children's Hospital of Orange County (1992-2009).

An avid tennis player and sports fan, he was attending physician for many sporting events while in Princeton. He also participated in Project Hope, making several trips to Poland to help improve pediatric care.

He is predeceased by one son and survived by his wife, Beverly, three sons, three daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren.

— Trisha Korioth
Dr. Silverman, editor of pediatric emergency text
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