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In Memoriam

AAP past president, Dr. Comerci



Dr. Comerci

One of the leaders who helped establish adolescent medicine, **George D. Comerci, M.D., FAAP**, of Tucson, Ariz., died Feb. 10. He was 81.

Dr. Comerci served as AAP president in 1994-'95 and as Section on Adolescent Health chair in

1984. He also was a member of the AAP Board of Directors, chaired the Task Force on Substance Abuse and was a member of the Committee on Scientific Meetings.

In 1987, he received the Adolescent Medicine Distinguished Service Award, and he was honored with the Clifford G. Grulee Award in 2004.

Dr. Comerci also was president of the Ambulatory Pediatric Association in 1978, twice receiving its Teaching Award.

The first associate dean for continuing medical education at University of Arizona College of Medicine, he was director of ambulatory pediatrics, deputy head

of the department, and professor of pediatrics and family and community medicine. He also directed the Desert Hills Center for Youth and Families. The University of Arizona College of Medicine established the George Comerci Visiting Professorship in Adolescent Medicine in 2007 in recognition of his work and establishment of its adolescent medicine program 30 years prior.

After receiving his medical degree from Temple University, he served as an intern with the U.S. Public Health Service and trained in pediatrics under Waldo E. Nelson at St. Christopher's Hospital in Philadelphia.

A jazz fan, he played saxophone and clarinet, sitting in with the group of musician-physicians, The Pediatric Jazz Band. He retired from pediatrics in 2002.

Dr. Comerci is survived by his wife, Jane, two sons, a daughter and seven grandchildren.

Read a profile of Dr. Comerci from his year as AAP president, <http://aapnews.aappublications.org/content/11/7/18.full.pdf+html>.

—*Trisha Koriath*