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In Memoriam

Dr. Tolan, infectious diseases expert



Dr. Tolan

Robert Warren Tolan Jr., M.D., FAAP, a pediatric infectious diseases expert from Ewing, N.J., died suddenly on July 8 at the age of 52.

Dr. Tolan graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Mo.

He completed pediatric residency at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis and the pediatric scientist development program fellowship in infectious diseases at St. Louis Children's Hospital.

His 14-year career in New Jersey began as a subspecialist private practitioner, after which he joined the Drexel University College of Medicine clinical faculty. In 2004, he was named chief of the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the affiliated Children's Hospital at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

A longtime member of the medical staff at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, he traveled 90 minutes each way weekly to contribute to infectious diseases grand rounds and seminars. He participated in National Institutes of Health collaborative research protocols, especially related to therapies for congenital

cytomegalovirus, neonatal herpes simplex virus infection and influenza.

Dr. Tolan was a member of the AAP Sections on Infectious Diseases and Emergency Medicine, the New Jersey Chapter, served on the editorial board for Prep ID and as a contributing section editor for AAP Grand Rounds.

"A go-to person as arbiter of questions and answers on immunology for Prep ID, several colleagues insisted that Bob was 'double boarded.' He was not. He simply was encyclopedic in his knowledge of infectious diseases — hosts and microorganisms," said Sarah S. Long, M.D., FAAP, professor of pediatrics at Drexel University College of Medicine, and chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children. "He was a sage adviser, a steadfast supporter, and a generous and kind soul. The hundreds who attended his memorial service each thought that they were Bob's best friend."

Dr. Tolan was a member of a national a cappella group and a passionate theater-goer.

He is survived by Judy, his wife of 10 years, and his mother, two stepchildren, a stepmother and two brothers.