



In Memoriam

Pediatric nephrology pioneer, Dr. Greifer



Dr. Greifer

Ira Greifer, M.D., FAAP, of New York City, a founder of pediatric nephrology who had an international influence on the field, died Sept. 17. He was 83.

A pioneer in the treatment of kidney disease in children, Dr. Greifer helped establish pediatric nephrology programs worldwide and was involved in patient care, advocacy and education. He was the 1992 recipient of the AAP Section on Nephrology's Kidney Award along with Henry L. Barnett, M.D., FAAP, for whom the award now is named.

Dr. Greifer was professor emeritus at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. In 1965, while director of pediatrics at Einstein, Dr. Greifer began developing a pediatric kidney center, one of the first in the nation. In 1997, the center was renamed in his honor.

He also treated children with kidney disease over many decades at his Bronx office and advocated for state and federal legislation to support research.

"Dr. Greifer was one of those unique human beings who always had others' best interests in

mind as he sought to improve the health of children worldwide," said colleague Frederick J. Kaskel, M.D., Ph.D., FAAP, director of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology at Children's Hospital at Montefiore. "I and many others will cherish his remembrance and contributions."

Dr. Greifer advocated for legislation to allow patients with kidney failure to receive dialysis and transplantation, collaborating with then-Sen. Jacob Javitz to foster kidney research and establish the New York State Kidney Disease Institute.

The former medical director of the National Kidney Foundation, Dr. Greifer was president of the Kidney & Urology Foundation of America and a founder of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association, serving as its first secretary general. He was a former executive editor of the journal *Pediatric Nephrology*.

In 1975, Dr. Greifer co-founded the nation's first mainstream camp to welcome children with kidney disease alongside healthy kids.

Dr. Greifer is survived by his wife, Carol, three daughters and five grandchildren.

To make a memorial donation to the Ira Greifer Children's Kidney Center, email mblacha@montefiore.org or call 718-920-6656.