

February 7, 2020

Hi Everyone.

This week's Departmental Acknowledgment is tinged with sadness and regret. We lost a giant in our Department in mid-December when **Ernest Seidman** passed away after a prolonged and debilitating illness. Much of what is written below has appeared in prior DAs recognizing Ernie's prodigious achievements in his chosen field. What I wrote then certainly bears repeating.

A subspecialist in GI with a laser like focus on inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), most of Ernie's investigatory activities and clinical activity took place at the Montreal General Hospital. His academic home was however in the Department of Pediatrics where-in he held a CRC Tier I Chair in Immune Mediated Gastrointestinal Disorders for two 7 year terms followed by a Distinguished James McGill Professorship. Ernie's CV weighs in at over 100 pages (too big to be sent by email) giving evidence for prodigious academic productivity that includes over 250 peer reviewed papers, 80 invited papers and book chapters, and a close to 500 (!) invited talks and lectures, Ernie held multiple PI grants from a variety of funding sources. He also held the Bruce Kaufman Endowed Chair in IBD at McGill.



Ernie's international renown in his field was well recognized with ongoing memberships on CIHR Grant panels, Editorial Boards and international professional organizations pertaining to gastroenterology. This all took place in the context of a very active clinical practice and active ongoing collaboration efforts with the pharmaceutical industry. Ernie was a true innovator, pioneering the use of capsule endoscopy and the fecal calprotectin assay to monitor in a non-invasive way bowel inflammation that enables both a marker of disease progression and therapeutic response. IBD is a chronic, frequently debilitating disorder and it is a tribute to Ernie's character that he has chosen, in his usual high energy relentless fashion, to minimize its burden to those unfortunately afflicted. He was also a devoted teacher and mentor with an active IBD Fellowship Training Program. Many of the world leaders in IBD trained with Ernie and he was an always available mentor and advisor long after they left training. It was heartwarming to personally witness the turnout and professional love evident from his former trainees at a Fettschrift organized in his honor a few years ago.

It was always inspiring to read his annual report. I remember getting a chuckle one year when he reported 11 peer reviewed papers, 2 chapters, 14 abstracts and 4 grants and stated as his goal for the forthcoming year as: "to increase productivity". Remarkably there was little abatement in output despite his health battles in the last few years. Ernie's energy and drive was an inspiration to us all.

Ernie also was devoted to his family. This was always evident to me when I was in his company. Our condolences go to his wife Marcy and his children, especially Gillian who many of us know from her pediatric residency with us.

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