

April 9, 2018

“A Tribute from the Division of Pediatric Nephrology”

Our community has lost another giant. Dr. Keith Drummond died on March 30, 2020 at the age of 88 years. Dr. Drummond was one of the founders of our specialty. He established the first Pediatric Nephrology program in Canada at the Montreal Children’s Hospital in 1964, followed by the first training program in pediatric Nephrology in Canada. There, he trained many of the first generation of Canadian pediatric nephrologists and many others from around the world, who subsequently established similar programs elsewhere; these include Russell Chesney (former Editor of Pediatric Nephrology) and Bernard Kaplan (former Division Director at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia). He was also Chair of Pediatrics at McGill University and Physician in Chief at the Montreal Children’s Hospital from 1974 to 1986 and published more than 200 scientific articles.



KEITH NEWTON DRUMMOND
May 6, 1931 - March 29, 2020

Dr. Drummond did not start his medical career as a pediatrician. He trained in internal medicine at McGill University in the late 1950s, before nephrology was even a specialty. However, his clinical teachers and experiences in internal medicine inspired him to pursue training in immunology, which he was convinced was critical to understand the most common forms of kidney disease in children at the time: glomerulonephritis and nephrotic syndrome. He studied the complement system with Clark West at the Babies and Children’s Hospital in Cleveland and then took an additional fellowship with Alfred Michaels at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Dr. Drummond was a pioneer of the renal biopsy in children, and wrote seminal papers showing that this procedure could be used to distinguish glomerulonephritis from nephrotic syndrome. He must have personally done thousands. Before the biopsy ‘gun’ and ultrasound guidance were introduced, he taught us to biopsy by feel, with the old Vim-Silverman needle. He made it look easy. Dr. Drummond’s responsibility for biopsies did not end when the tissue was procured. He also was among the first to initiate immunofluorescence microscopy on renal biopsy tissue in Canada, and for a period received samples from across the country.

Dr. Drummond touched the lives and careers of many. He was an exceptional role model and mentor and encouraged and inspired us all to be better doctors and scientists. Anyone who trained under him will remember the pleasure (and pain) of going over a manuscript with him line by line, word by word. He appeared to have all the time in the world as he pulled out a board that fit over the arms of his chair and set the printed pages of the manuscript down in front of him, pencil poised.

Keith Drummond was one of those rare individuals who moved through the world with great kindness, shining intelligence, sharp wit, and profound humility. He was a wonderful physician and teacher and influenced all who had the privilege to have known him.

Beth Foster
Lorraine Bell
Indra Gupta
Paul Goodyer
Marie-Michèle Gaudreault-Tremblay

Happy Easter weekend to those celebrating the joy of renewal. Chag Sameach to all those celebrating the Passover Seders this week which honors freedom-our most precious societal gift.

Micheal

Micheal Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor (with Tenure)
Departments of Pediatrics and Nerology/Neurosurgery

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief
Montreal's Children's Hospital/
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

Follow Me on Twitter: @McGillPeds