



Dr. Michael James Painter

November 30, 1939 - October 17, 2019

Michael James Painter, M.D., age 79, formerly of Wexford, Pennsylvania, passed away on October 17, 2019 in St. Augustine, Florida.

Dr. Painter was born in Detroit, Michigan, on November 30, 1939 to the late James Painter and Elizabeth Melvin Painter. He and his older sister grew up surrounded by a large extended family in Dearborn, Michigan, where he graduated from Dearborn High School. He received his B.S. in Biology from Georgetown University in 1961 and his M.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1965.

Dr. Painter completed his internship and residency at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Following a two-year stint as a captain in the United States Air Force in Savannah, Georgia, he was a pediatric neurology visiting fellow at Columbia University in New York. He then returned to Pittsburgh as a faculty member and was chief of the Division of Child Neurology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh from 1978 through 2002. He remained on staff at both Children's Hospital and Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh and was a professor of Neurology and Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh until he retired to St. Augustine, Florida, in 2013. After moving, he served as a Child Neurology consultant at the University of Florida in Jacksonville.

Dr. Painter was a tireless advocate for child neurologists and the children and

families they serve, devoting his career to the development of the subspecialty of child neurology. He played a pivotal role in the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, both as an examiner and as a developer of the new examination for certification in neurodevelopmental disabilities. He had a true passion for teaching and trained and mentored dozens of pediatric interns and residents. He authored countless medical publications and served as president of both the Child Neurology Society and Child Neurology Foundation. In 2006, his peers awarded him with the prestigious Child Neurology Society Hower Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions as a teacher and scholar to the field of child neurology. His other awards included: Who's Who in the East, Best Doctors in America (Neonatal Neurology) and Best Doctors in America (Pittsburgh Magazine).

In his spare time, Dr. Painter was a voracious reader and loved watching college and professional football, especially while rooting for his two favorite teams – University of Michigan and the Steelers. He also enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and fly fishing trips with his cousin and good friend, Bernard Willis. His family and friends will remember him for his truly unique personality, intelligence, quick wit, generosity and vast historical knowledge.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Judith Kareis Painter of St. Augustine, Florida; son William (Eileen) Painter of Montclair, New Jersey; daughter Elizabeth (Keith) Anderson of Inverness, Illinois; son Michael (Liz) Painter of Marion, South Carolina; step-daughter Kara (Chris) Cupoli of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; sister Mary (Edmund) Baumgartner of Belmont, Massachusetts; 12 grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Dr. Painter will be honored with a reception on November 22 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the John G. Rangos Sr. Research Center located at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, 4401 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh. His family

will be holding a private memorial service in Dearborn, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Dr. Painter's name to the Michael J. Painter, MD, Award for Excellence in Child Neurology. Checks can be made to: UPP Division of Child Neurology and mailed to:

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

Division of Child Neurology

c/o Holly Schaupp

4401 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr Painter had a great impact on my career helping me to grow my interest in research and academic work while learning how to be humbled by learning from patients. His smiling face will never be forgotten. He has been always a pleasure to recall and I was blessed by the big difference he made in my professional career and all the patients' lives he has touched and is still touching. I will always remember Dr Painter. His legacy is secured on earth and his soul is safe in heaven.*

Sameh Morkous,MD

Sameh Morkous - October 30, 2019 at 10:38 PM



“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Liz Painter - October 26, 2019 at 10:50 AM

KC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



ken cazeneuve - October 25, 2019 at 12:15 AM

DT

“ Dr. Painter was my son Waylon's neurologist. Waylon was a 3-pound preemie and had hydrocephalus and brain hemorrhages. Dr. Painter treated him like he was his most important patient. Told me how amazing and smarty he was. it He made me feel so comfortable with our decisions we had to make. Waylon and his twin brother Wyatt are now healthy 11 year olds. Over the years I would ask the nurses if they heard from dr. Painter. I found out about his love for civil war after I heard that he had passed. As tears came out of my eyes, I wish he would have known about my children's love of History especially Civil War. They will be Marching In The Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade for the second time this year . I'm sure dr. Painter would have been proud.

Danielle Troup - October 24, 2019 at 11:15 PM

JP

Thank you so much for your kind words. Judy Painter

Judith Painter - October 25, 2019 at 06:28 PM

SF

“ Dr. Painter was one of the kindest humans I have ever met. I worked at Magee Women's hospital as a nurse in the NICU for ten years prior to relocating and for each of those years Dr. Painter was "about to retire." (I moved in 2013). There was never a bedside visit that I didn't learn something new from him. He was a wonderful support to our babies and their families...always patient and never giving any family the impression that he was as busy as he truly was. (Most docs speak w one foot in the room and the other foot out while leaning for the exit). Not Dr. Painter. He was truly an admirable man. There aren't many like him these days. My sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family. He certainly touched a lot of lives.

S. Fite - October 24, 2019 at 11:00 PM