

Klaus J. Lewin, MD (1936–2005): In Memorium

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We are truly sad to report that Klaus Lewin, a leader in the field of gastrointestinal (GI) pathology, died on October 25, 2005 at his home in Pacific Palisades.

Klaus was born on August 10, 1936 in Jerusalem and was educated at Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, before pursuing a medical degree at the Westminster Hospital in London. After residency and early experience in England, he moved to Stanford University where he pursued his interest in GI pathology, an interest that started at the Gordon Hospital in London when Klaus undertook pioneering work on the Paneth cell with the renowned Dr Dawson. He was recruited to the Pathology Department at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) by Chairman Julien van Lancker and Walter Coulson, Chief of Surgical Pathology in 1976. The choice of Klaus Lewin as a new faculty member in Surgical Pathology at UCLA was a highly significant recruitment for the Department. Dr Lewin went on to make an enormous impact in academic GI, liver, and pancreatic pathology. His accomplishments are evidenced by his world renown as a diagnostician, researcher, and teacher.

Dr Lewin was Chief of GI, liver, and pancreatic pathology at UCLA from 1989 to 2003 and innumerable pathologists within and beyond UCLA came to depend on his consultative opinion. He was a noted exponent of the integration of clinical assessment with pathologic findings in the determination of the final pathologic diagnosis; to the great benefit of the patient. His research achievements are reflected by his extensive publication record (169 papers, 3 books, 39 chapters, 82 abstracts). The fields of GI inflammatory disorders, neoplasia and liver transplantation were all

substantially advanced by his work. Dr Lewin's high and unwavering professionalism gave credibility to his academic works. However, it was the personable manner in which he conveyed his great store of information that made the experience of instruction by Klaus Lewin truly memorable. As a highly sought after international speaker (262 speaking engagements) he engaged many pathologists to such a degree that in no time they were visiting the Department and working along side him as friends and colleagues. These relationships proved enduring. Dr Lewin mentored many pathologists-in-training who all testify to his endearing nature and encyclopedic knowledge. He established a GI pathology fellowship training program at UCLA, and graduates of that program enhance programs at Yale, University of Chicago, UCLA, UC Davis, UC Irvine, the Medical University of South Carolina, and abroad. Additionally, Dr Lewin initiated the highly appreciated and enduring weekly Pathology Grand Rounds at UCLA. Another significant achievement for the Department was his early development of an effective and compendious Immunohistochemistry Service.

He taught Pathology in every continent. His protégés include chiefs of GI Pathology in prominent

academic centers around this country and current and former members of the Department at UCLA. They include his son David, now a full Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina. Klaus was very proud of all the generations of his family: many of whom were and are physicians.

Klaus and his wife Patricia were generous hosts in their elegant and happy home. Klaus was skilled in the preparation of delectable desserts, and easily could have been a professional patissier. All who have had the privilege of knowing the Lewins personally have been touched and inspired by Patricia's devotion to Klaus and the kindness and warmth of spirit of their family.

Dr Lewin was a leader in his field and a true and kind gentleman. He gave his many talents willingly and unstintingly to UCLA, to his community, to his profession and to his specialty. He is and will continue to be greatly missed.

Klaus passed away at home in Pacific Palisades surrounded by the mountains and ocean that were so important to him. He is survived by his wife Patricia, 3 children, David, Nicola, and Bruno (all physicians), and 5 grandchildren.