



CUAJ honors its members and friends who have passed away. We invite colleagues of the deceased to submit brief remembrances. Please limit your notice to 200 words. Send your notice to [journal@cua.org](mailto:journal@cua.org) or fax it to 514-395-1664.



Cite as: *Can Urol Assoc J* 2021;15(12):431. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5489/cuaj.7695>

### Dr. Jun Kawakami

*"One word frees us of all the weight and pain of life. That word is love."*

– Sophocles

It is with tremendous sadness we announce the passing of Dr. Jun Kawakami, our respected colleague and friend. Jun passed away on August 30, 2021, after a valiant battle against pancreatic cancer. He left this earthly world at home, in the embrace of his loving wife Julie and his two sons, Summit (15) and Merrit (13). He died the way he wanted, surrounded by his family and friends that he cherished so much.

Jun completed medical school in 1998 at Queen's University. He remained at Queen's, where he completed his urology residency. Early in residency, it was evident that Jun was a naturally gifted surgeon, and it was no surprise that he pursued a fellowship in uro-oncology. Jun met Julie, the love of his life, in Kingston. Although Jun was well-known for his surgical and clinical acumen, his greatest passion was his family.

After residency, Jun and Julie moved to San Francisco for his uro-oncology fellowship at UCSF. Two years later, in 2005, they returned to Kingston, where Jun was appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Urology. Jun's surgical abilities enhanced KGH's uro-oncology and MIS programs through the introduction of more advanced and complex laparoscopic uro-oncologic techniques and procedures. Summit and Merrit were born during these years and brought such joy and a new perspective to Jun and Julie's lives.

In 2009, the family moved to Calgary, where Jun was brought on to fill a void left by the sudden passing of another well-respected urologic colleague. It was with great sadness that the urologic community in Kingston let Jun go to provide his skill and expertise to Western Canada. Jun was immediately embraced by the urology team in Calgary, not only for his surgical skills but for his honor and humanity.

Jun battled his pancreatic cancer with determination. Together with Summit and Merrit, Jun and Julie came up with four rules to live by: 1) stay positive and lift each other up whenever possible; 2) show emotion even if it's sadness, as it's still an expression of love; 3) enjoy every moment; and 4) try your hardest at whatever you are doing.

Jun's celebration of life on August 14, 2021, was, simply put, beautiful. The love between Jun and his family and friends was palpable. Friends, family, and colleagues travelled from across the country to pay tribute to this great man. Despite his body's internal battle, Jun's energy (as evidenced by the resurrection of his famous dance moves on the dance floor) was inspirational. Everyone present will forever cherish the celebration of Jun's legacy. Even during his last days with us, he smiled, laughed, and joked with that mischievous twinkle in his eye that we all knew. He said, "I know I'm doing this backwards, but more people should die this way. I got to say everything I wanted to those I love. No regrets."

Jun will always be remembered as a dedicated, skillful, and caring physician. He had such a positive impact on so many patients and colleagues in his career. But Jun would say his greatest achievement was his family and the relationships he fostered throughout his life. Truthfully, he had the ability to positively impact anyone who crossed his path. Jun's legacy will continue through the launch of the Kawakami Prehabilitation Clinic.

We miss you dearly, our friend and our brother.

– Contributed by Dr. Jay Lee and Dr. Darren Beiko