

IN MEMORIAM

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DR. BERNARD CHURCHILL

Dr. Bernard Churchill was born in Canada's oil capital, Calgary. His father, J. Winston Churchill, a highly respected educator, instilled in him the strong conservative values, work ethic, and discipline that remained with him throughout his life. Dr. Churchill also shared the deep faith of his mother Rose Patricia Churchill (née Murray), who carried this from her native Ireland.

Family life, faith, an analytical and inquisitive academic mind, a love of sports, and a keen interest in business shaped Dr. Churchill into an academic leader, surgeon-scientist, and educator whose style differed markedly from the conventional model.

Sports and athletic competition were central in the Churchill household. With his height, basketball was a natural pursuit, and he served as captain of his high school team. The Churchills were also accomplished skiers, sailors, rowers, and tennis players. Throughout his career, Dr. Churchill emphasized to his trainees that physical fitness and stamina were essential for a long and successful career in reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Churchill graduated from medical school in Edmonton, Alberta, in 1963 and shortly thereafter married his sweetheart, Margaret, in July of that year. Together they formed a formidable partnership, building a strong family and raising four sons.

Dr. Churchill received his postgraduate surgical training at Harvard University, and the University of Toronto. While at Harvard, Dr. Churchill trained under the legendary Dr. Joseph E. Murray, who performed the world's first successful kidney transplant at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He then moved to Toronto, where he completed a year as a surgical research fellow before serving as chief resident under Dr. Charles Robson.

During that time, he authored the seminal paper on renal cell carcinoma detailing Robson's exceptional results with radical nephrectomy and lymphadenectomy.

After completing the Gallie residency training program at the University of Toronto, Dr. Churchill returned to Calgary, where he practiced general and pediatric urology for five years. In 1975, when Dr. Robert Jeffs was recruited to Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Robson invited Dr. Churchill back to Toronto to lead the Division of Pediatric Urology at The Hospital for Sick Children. Over the ensuing 20 years, Dr. Churchill transformed pediatric urology in Toronto into one of the leading and internationally renowned academic centers in the specialty.

Under his mentorship, 42 fellows graduated from the Toronto program; half entered academic practice, 12 became division heads of pediatric urology, and three went on to chair departments of urology. His sincere interest in each fellow's personal and professional growth added immeasurable value to the Toronto fellowship experience.

Academic productivity during his tenure was remarkable, with 150 peer-reviewed publications and 280 presentations at national and international meetings. His work spanned the breadth of pediatric urology, with particular emphasis on urodynamics, posterior urethral valves, reconstruction, bladder exstrophy, transplantation, and oncology.

Dr. Churchill's dedication to teaching and mentorship was palpable to every resident and fellow who trained with him. His teaching style was distinctive — rigorous, disciplined, and unyielding in its pursuit of excellence. He demanded the highest standards from himself and from everyone in the operating room. Many of his fellows described him as "the world's most disciplined and patient surgeon." Complex and redo cases were his forte, and it was in these challenging operations that his vast surgical experience was most evident.

In 1995, Dr. Churchill moved to the University of California, Los Angeles as Director of the Clark Morrison Children's Urology Center and holder of the Judith



and Robert Winston Chair (1995–2015). In addition to building a major referral practice for complex and redo surgery, he successfully launched a significant basic science initiative. He assembled a team of scientists to investigate early identification of urinary tract infections using DNA-based molecular techniques. This work received \$7.5 million of funding from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.

Dr. Churchill exemplified the classic "triple threat" surgeon: outstanding clinician, scientist, and educator. His contributions place him among the top tier of pediatric urologists; he was a thought leader who shaped the education and careers of a substantial proportion of practicing pediatric urologists worldwide. In 2010, in recognition of his profound impact on advancing care and improving the lives of children with urologic disease, the Section on Urology of the American Academy of Pediatrics honored him with the AAP Medal, the highest distinction in pediatric urology.

Dr. Churchill leaves behind his beloved wife of 63 years, Margaret Rose Churchill (née Shandro), and his four sons, Michael Bernard, Patrick John, William Brian, and James Alexander, as well as his seven cherished grandchildren, Noël, Victor, Thomas, Claudia, Lukas, Xavier, and Evangeline.

— Contributed by Dr. Tony Khoury

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 adriana.modica@cua.org.