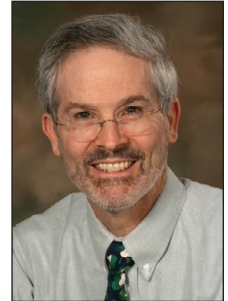

LEGENDS IN UROLOGY

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It is humbling to think my life and career in Pediatric Urology merits inclusion in the Legends-in-Urology section of the Canadian Journal of Urology International. I do not think of this as my eulogy, as my son assures me that he has already prepared that! What follows is how I became who I am, who my great mentors were, and who were my greatest supporters.

I was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My grandparents were all Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe between the First and Second World Wars. My maternal grandfather was an ornamental iron worker and my paternal grandfather was a butcher. My mother was a secretary/bookkeeper at Kaufmann's Department Store. My father completed the eighth grade and worked as a butcher with his dad, eventually opening a small grocery store where he worked 6 plus days a week. He spoke six languages (Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Yiddish, Hebrew, and English) and could add large columns of numbers in his head. Our family history instilled in us a love of hard work and education. My late older brother, Larry, was Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at William and Mary, and my younger brother, Howard, recently retired as Professor of Pediatrics and Family Medicine at Jefferson.

Our house was three miles from steel mills. At age 2 ½, I was diagnosed with allergic asthma, requiring avoiding animals, air pollution, and smoke. Much of my childhood was spent in the emergency room and as an inpatient at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Since the six block walk to school was saturated by small particulate haze in the fall and spring, and soot-covered snow in winter, I missed most of first grade. I was finally connected to an allergist, Dr. Irwin Solow and began years of weekly allergy shots. He occasionally stopped by our house to see me when I was sick. I experienced recurrent ear infections, and, shortly after becoming my doctor, he performed bilateral myringotomy at my home without anesthesia. At that early age I knew that I wanted to be a pediatrician to help children like my doctor was helping me. I spent time reading in my air-conditioned bedroom. My two favorite books were Rats, Lice and History by Hans Zinsser, and Gods, Graves and Scholars by C.W. Ceram, learning about Typhus and Archaeology. On Saturdays I often took a streetcar to the Carnegie Library and Museum. My younger brother and I were part of the Salk Vaccine study. With Dr. Solow's care, by high school I was running, and playing tennis and softball.

I entered the University of Pittsburgh in September 1960 as a pre-med student. In my Freshman year, I experienced what I call 'My Luckiest Day in My Life': On February 4th, 1961, I had a blind date with Sally Miller, who was, and is, the nicest person I ever met. We dated for 6 years and married on June 4th 1967. She has been my strength and support, raised our 3 children, and advised me for our 56 years of married life. We have yet to have a fight.

Sally and I had many discussions about my career choice: Medicine or History Professor. We decided that I would be more helpful caring for children - and I could make history my hobby. I entered Pitt medical school to become a pediatrician. After spending time in pediatric offices, I observed that challenging cases were sent to a specialist. I chose electives in pediatric hematology, oncology, and surgery. Pediatric general surgery was intriguing, involving embryology, anatomy, and fixing anatomic problems. My hand-eye coordination was honed in early childhood, indoors, building intricate model airplanes and ships. During a pediatric surgical rotation, I spent time with a pediatric urologist, Dr. Stuart Price. An outstanding technical surgeon, he had a great personality, and he was terrific with children and their parents. He used tiny telescopes called cystoscopes with tiny light bulbs. Now I was hooked. I was going to be a pediatric urologist.

During surgical internship and residency I spent elective times at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital in pediatric subspecialties. Dr. Price advised and mentored me during those 2 years. In 1969, a new mentor came into my life, Dr. Mark Ravitch, a brilliant pediatric surgeon who knew the history of innumerable surgical procedures, some of which were his own. As a first year surgical resident scrubbing with him, one needed to know the details of the procedure as well as its history. I was inspired by his method of teaching while operating. He knew a great deal about the history of urology, supported my choice of becoming a pediatric urologist, and emphasized the importance of knowing where we came from and who did what, when, and why. He taught me to always be prepared. Operating with him was like listening to a history textbook. He was a major developer of advancing and upgrading Russian surgical staplers. He chose me to assist in teaching how to use these instruments. In March 1970, our daughter, Marni, was born.

I entered active duty in the US Air Force in July 1970 and spent the next 2 years at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, as a surgeon, obstetrician, and gynecologist, spending time in clinics, the operating room, and the delivery room. Most importantly, I spent one day every other week operating at Luke with pediatric surgeon Dr. David Trump, then a Colonel in the US Air Force Reserves. I was also able to take leave for a day on alternate weeks and operate with Dr. Trump in Phoenix, repairing pediatric hernias, hydroceles, hypospadias, and undescended testes. If David, a meticulous surgeon, had an urgent case in the evening or weekend, he would call and, if available, I'd assist him with surgery for ureteroceles, UPJ obstructions, and torsions. It was truly like 2 years of fellowship and I still use his technique to repair hernias. In November 1971, our daughter, Tara, was born. Her birth certificate lists me as both father and obstetrician.

In July 1972, I returned to Pittsburgh for urology residency. My two most influential teachers in adult urology were the division head, Dr. Frederick Schwentker, and my chief resident, Dr. Walter O'Donnell. Fritz taught technical urology and medical urology/nephrology. Walt and I were the only ones in our respective classes to become urologists. We were together at the Oakland VA Hospital when fiberoptic scopes were purchased and I no longer had to change the Mignon light bulbs! Walt taught surgical technique and innovation. At Children's, I worked closely with Stu Price and Mark Ravitch. In July 1973, our son Aaron was born.

With the advice of Price and Ravitch, I was accepted for 1975 pediatric urology fellowship at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, by Dr. Robert Jeffs, who I had met in September 1974, at the Northeastern Section Meeting in Whitefield, New Hampshire. There were two positions for fellows: clinical and research. I was accepted for the clinical fellowship and a gentleman from England was to be the research fellow. A few weeks before our move, I received a call from Dr. Martin Barkin, pediatric urologist at Sick Kids. He shared that Bob Jeffs was moving to Johns Hopkins and the research fellow cancelled. Martin would be temporary Chief for 6 months, and Dr. Bernard Churchill from western Canada would become the next Chief. I now had three options: back out of the fellowship, become the clinical fellow, or become the research fellow. I chose a fourth option: to pursue both the clinical and the research fellowships. Working with Dr. Barkin, we set up a program so that my first 2 months were spent in medical records researching various etiologies of dilated ureters, before becoming the clinical fellow. A brilliant physician and meticulous pediatric urologist, Martin was a supportive, inspiring mentor. I spent my last 6 months at Sick Kids working with Dr. Churchill. Bernie had an engineering mind; his every step involved planning, organization, and attention to detail. Setting up his clinical practice taught me how to set up mine. I still follow his skillful, organized rules for documenting a complete history and physical. He taught me vascular surgical access and renal transplantation. The year at Sick Kids launched my academic career. Before, I had published five manuscripts. That year resulted in 16 journal publications including earning First Prize for Clinical Research in 1976 from the Northeastern Section of the AUA, followed by First Prize for Clinical Research at the AUA meeting in Chicago in 1977.

In September 1975, I met Dr. Abraham Cockett, Chief of Urology in Rochester, at the Northeastern Section AUA meeting in Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania. We played in the tennis tournament, often paired as partners, and he invited me to become Rochester's first pediatric urologist. On August 1, 1976, I began my first (and only) professional academic position at the University Rochester. Following the organizational skills learned from Dr. Churchill, I built virtually the entire pediatric urology practice within my first year. Since I was sending children home a few hours following surgery, rather than keeping them in hospital after hernia repair or orchiopexy, I was now

swamped operating on children with cryptorchidism and hernias. I won approval from insurance companies to perform outpatient procedures, as I had learned from Dr. Trump. Patient care was paramount.

I met four people that first year in Rochester who are so important in my career and life: William Hulbert, David Diamond, Anthony Caldamone, and Kevin Pranikoff. William Hulbert was a second year medical student. He returned for his residency. In 1990, Bill joined me as the Rochester's second pediatric urologist. We worked together for 30 years until his retirement. A meticulous surgeon and pediatric neuro-urologist, he was an expert in caring for the spina bifida population. A superb and gifted teacher, Bill was also Residency Director. We collaborated on 55 publications. David Diamond, a third year student, left Rochester following medical school and had a world-renowned career, spending 25 years at Boston Children's Hospital, the last 10 as Chief of Pediatric Urology. Two years ago he returned to Rochester, joining our Pediatric Urology Division, teaching in the office, operating room, and at educational conferences. Anthony Caldamone was a Pediatric intern when I arrived here. He had previously completed a surgery internship, heading to a career in pediatric urology. As a pediatric intern, Tony often came to the operating room, as some patients were initially admitted the day prior to surgery and he was then able to follow them pre and postoperatively. A great many of those procedures were reoperations. As a Urology resident, Tony and I worked on many projects together; and we continue, contributing 19 joint publications to the literature. The most important one was a review of over 500 orchiopexys, showing that outpatient surgery was safe, reduced separation anxiety, and was very cost effective. That study won first prize in the 1981 AUA Walter Kerr Resident Essay Contest on Methods of Cost Control in Health Care. Kevin Pranikoff was the resident in the laboratory when I arrived. His cynical, sarcastic sense of humor is similar to mine, and we immediately bonded. We have remained close friends, working on numerous joint projects for our Northeastern Section and the national AUA, and our families have vacationed together. We have worked together in leadership roles within our section, serving as Secretary, President, and Historian.

Robert Mevorach, a former medical student and Urology resident here, returned from his US Navy commitment and pediatric urology fellowship to join the Division in 1996, adding laparoscopy to the practice. Rob left for a warmer climate in 2013. Dr. Jimena Cubillos, another former Rochester medical student, returned from pediatric urology fellowship in 2010 to lead the Division's minimally invasive section with incredible expertise in robotics and laparoscopy.

In 1991 the Undergraduate Religion Department announced an arrangement with the Israel Antiquities Department to excavate Jotopata, the site in the Galilee where Josephus was captured by the Romans under Vespasian and Titus in 67 CE. I took night classes in archaeology and volunteered to participate in the excavation. My job expanded as I spent a month each summer during 1992-2001 as a physician, photographer, square supervisor, teacher of field methods in archaeology and ancient history, and tour guide, often joined by my family.

At the Rochester Academy of Medicine, I held many leadership roles including Trustee, Secretary, and President, as well as participating in multiple committees. In 2012 I received the Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Albert David Kaiser Medal, which reads: 'Ronald Rabinowitz, MD, consummate cynic, scholar, committed clinician, historian, and collector. Devoted husband, father, grandfather, and Pittsburgh fan. Friend.'

In addition to decades as Chief of Pediatric Urology, I held numerous leadership positions at the University of Rochester, including Secretary and Chair of the Medical Faculty Council, and participated in recruitment, promotion, fetal therapy, and ambulatory surgery committees.

I have attended and participated in all but two of our Northeastern section AUA meetings since 1974. I have served on or led every committee in our section, and served as Secretary, President, and Historian (2009-2016). I have served on both the American Board of Urology Written Examination Committee and as a guest oral examiner for 13 years. I have been Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Urology and served on or chaired many of its committees.

I love working at a University with a culture of caring and collegiality, supporting patient care, research, and professional advancement. I have been incredibly fortunate in my three department chairs. Dr. Abraham Cockett,

my first Chair, a consummate multitasker, was a role model for volunteering and participating in local, regional, and national organizations. Always advising regarding participation on committees, applying for positions, and collaborating on research, Abe helped me recruit Bill Hulbert. When Abe died, I was honored to present his eulogy at the 2012 annual AUA meeting in Atlanta. Dr. Edward Messing became my second Department Chair in 1995. Ed tripled the size of the full-time academic department, including recruiting Rob Mevorach and Jimena Cubillos. He was instrumental in moving the Pediatric Urology Clinical Office three blocks from the new Golisano Children's Hospital and quadrupling our space. Unwavering in his support of Pediatric Urology, Ed emphasized teaching in addition to patient care and research. In 2018, Dr. Jean Joseph became my third Department Chair. A former resident of mine and an outstanding robotic oncologic surgeon, Jean continues in the tradition of innovative leadership by spending 2 days each week in meetings advancing the Department's goals, recruiting, teaching, and administration. We have expanded to 25 full time faculty members. Jean and I continue to collaborate in his dedicated support of the Department and the Division of Pediatric Urology.

In addition to my love of caring for children with surgical and medical urologic problems, I remain committed to teaching, education, and history. My positions on the History Committee of the AUA since 2009 have resulted in non-surgical mentoring and collaboration. As a member of the AUA Board of Directors (2001-2005), I joined the ad hoc committee on the AUA Museum, as the AUA planned its move to the new headquarters building. I am proud that my recommendation that the entire building serve as a museum displaying exhibits and artifacts was approved. Working with Dr. Michael Moran during his tenure as AUA Curator (2011-2019), I learned much listening to and observing Mike's extensive knowledge of medical and urologic history, and his ability to organize the annual History Exhibit, History Forum, and guest lectures at the History Booth. I began subbing for AUA Historian Dr. Rainer Engel in 2014 and became the 9th AUA Historian in 2016. That role has significantly expanded since the position of full time Curator ended. My position will end in May 2024 with the completion of the AUA meeting in San Antonio, when I become AUA Historian Emeritus. Working with AUA Archivist Tupper Stevens for more than the past decade has been an added bonus, as she has guided and mentored me in my role as Historian. Three colleagues on the History Committee have been immensely helpful, co-authoring publications and lecturing at the History Exhibits: Dr. Jennifer Gordetsky, Professor of UroPathology at Vanderbilt, Dr. Sutchin Patel (University of Wisconsin) and Dr. Friedrich Moll (Historian, Cologne, Germany).

I have been fortunate to have co-authored four Earl Nation Retrospectroscope Awards and four Honorable Mention Awards. The AUA has honored me with a Distinguished Service Award in 2013, the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2021, and the William P. Didusch Art and History Award in 2023.

How have I made it this far at 81? That's easy - I'm still married to my best friend. We adore our three adult children (all teachers) and their mates (Marni and Craig, Tara and David, and Aaron and Sara), along with our six grandchildren: Adar, Kyla, Aviva, Nava, Asher, and Ezra. As I look back, my life conveys the importance of education, outside interests, physical activity (I still play tennis and softball), teamwork, family, and luck. I have been at the right place and time for my career and my life. I had the great fortune to meet my life partner at 17. Sally and our children have unselfishly supported my interests and career. The honor of working with residents and medical students remains vital. At my recent talk for my high school Hall of Fame induction ceremony, I expanded our motto: 'Know Something, Do Something, Be Something'. I added 'Teach Something'.

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