

Obituary from the Wisconsin State Journal



Weinstein, I. Bernard M.D.

NEW YORK CITY

I. Bernard Weinstein, M.D. died on Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, in New York City. He was 78. At the time of his death, Dr. Weinstein held four distinguished positions at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in New York: the Frode Jensen Professor of Medicine, Professor of Genetics and Development, Professor of Public Health, and Director Emeritus of the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center. He was also an attending physician at the Presbyterian Hospital. Bernard Weinstein was born in Madison to Max and Frieda (Blachman) Weinstein. He was the youngest and last surviving of their four children, Arvin, Laurence and Evelyn (Minkoff).

Bernie is survived by his wife of 56 years, Joan (Anker); their three children, Tamara (Linda Russell), Claudia (Jeff Rothfeder) and Matthew (David Beres); two grandchildren, Max Weinstein and Noa Weinstein; his sisters-in-law, Sybil Weinstein and Frances Weinstein; and a large extended family of Weinstein's, Minkoff's, Blachman's, and Anker's. Dr. Weinstein is also survived by those he called his "second family" -- his students, fellow scientists and mentees. Bernard Weinstein was educated at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, receiving his bachelor of science and M.D. degrees. He did clinical training in internal medicine and oncology at Montefiore Hospital in New York. Dr. Weinstein's additional clinical and laboratory research was at the National Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School and MIT. In 1961, he was recruited to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, where he pursued his career in teaching and research until his death. From 1985-1995, he was the director of the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Columbia University. Under his leadership, the Cancer Center developed outstanding programs in basic cancer research, clinical research and cancer prevention. Dr. Weinstein was widely recognized for his contributions to the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of multistage carcinogenesis and their relevance to novel strategies for cancer prevention and therapy. His research findings are documented in over 600 scientific publications. He was a founder of the field of molecular epidemiology, a new approach to discovering the causes of specific human cancers. His concept of "oncogene addiction" provides a rationale for molecular targeting in cancer therapy. Dr. Weinstein's accomplishments were recognized by his appointment to several national and international advisory committees and he also received several honorary awards. In 1987, he received the Clowes Award from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and in 1991 he served as president of the (AACR), the world's largest basic and clinical cancer research organization. In 1992, he received an honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin, in recognition of his contributions to cancer research. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, a member of the American Association of Physicians, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the National Foundation for Cancer Research. In 1999, he received the international Anthony Dipple Award for Carcinogenesis Research. In 2001, he received a Distinguished Award from the American Society of Cancer Prevention and an Award for Research Excellence in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention that is jointly sponsored by the AACR and the American Cancer Society. In 2004, Dr. Weinstein received the Charles Heidelberger Award for Cancer Research. Although his work took him to New York more than four decades ago, Bernie considered Madison his home contributing generously to the Jewish Community Building named for his father, Max Weinstein, the Minkoff Center at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus in Verona, and to a Camp

Shalom Scholarship Fund established in honor of his nephew, Joel Minkoff, among other projects and programs throughout the years. In addition, he, Joan, their children and grandchildren relished the many family celebrations and other events they attended in Madison over the years. A graveside funeral and burial will take place at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008, at FOREST HILLS CEMETERY, 1 Speedway, Madison. Memorial contributions may be made to the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at the Columbia University Medical Center, 630 West 168th St., New York, NY 10032.