

Dr. Jack O. Haller



On June 15, 2004, at the age of 60, Dr. Jack O. Haller lost a courageous and valiant 2-year battle against pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Haller was one of the bright lights in pediatric radiology. After receiving his B.A. from Yeshiva University in 1965, Dr. Haller attended the State University of New York at Downstate Medical Center where in 1969, he received his M.D. He completed his radiology training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and Babies Hospital in 1975. In 1980, Dr. Haller became Professor of Clinical Radiology at Downstate where he was appointed Vice Chairman of the Department in 1984. He continued his career as Professor of Radiology at Albert Einstein Medical Center (2000).

Jack reached the highest echelon in academic pediatric radiology. He published almost 200 papers, numerous chapters, and 10 books and monographs. His first book, *Pediatric Ultrasound* (1980), was a pioneering effort that helped change the imaging of children. He was an editor of the most recently published *Caffey's Pedi-*

atric Diagnostic Imaging (2003) as well as recently completing the 3rd edition of *Pediatric Radiology*, a text for medical students, radiology residents, and other pediatric healthcare providers (to be published November 2004). He was on the Editorial Board of *Pediatric Radiology* and was Book Review Editor for 5 years.

A member of numerous radiologic organizations, Jack was awarded fellowship in the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine, the Society of Radiologists in Ultrasound, and the American College of Radiology. He enjoyed collegial sessions with his peers and was extremely active in the Caffey Society and the Society of Pediatric Imaging (a small group of pediatric radiologists who meet yearly). He served as Chairman of the Pediatric Section of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and Chairman of the Radiology Section of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Jack was a member of the Committee on Education and Training of the Commission of Ultrasound of the American College of Radiology, and a Board examiner for the American Board of Radiology.

Above all, Jack's passion was teaching his residents. Not only did he serve as the director of the residency program at Downstate for 19 years, but Jack was also a permanent guest lecturer at multiple hospitals in the region, specifically to teach the residents. Jack won many awards for his unique teaching skills—the most notable being the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1996) and the Harry Z. Mellins Master Teacher's Award for Excellence in Radiology in 1999.

His legendary teaching gift is evidenced by his influence on radiology and pediatric residents throughout the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area. Jack was truly a master at teaching residents to search for the

radiologic clues leading to the correct diagnoses. But his influence did not end in the reading room. He got to know each of his many residents personally and mentored them personally and professionally throughout their training as well as throughout their careers. Jack was always available and easily approachable. His quick humor, frequent one-liners, and sagacious advice were always welcome.

Jack was a voracious reader of fiction and non-fiction with a breadth of knowledge that never ceased to amaze us. He was a Talmudic scholar, a man of the world, a fearless skier and sometimes an absent-minded driver. He was at various times our colleague, mentor, advisor, but always, he was our friend. Those of us lucky enough to have been touched by Dr. Haller will forever remember his incredible warmth, genuine happiness, and truly fantastic sense of humor. It was nearly impossible to have a conversation with Jack Haller and not smile and laugh. His advice continues to touch us on a daily basis. Jack's courage, vitality and boundless enthusiasm throughout his illness were truly amazing and inspirational. Jack did not complain; rather he armed himself with knowledge and harnessed his naturally positive attitude—he then shared that with his family and friends, continuing to inspire and educate us until his death. He continued to review films while himself a patient in the hospital just days before his death.

Jack is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Osna, their children Evan and Terri, Ziva and Harry, and Kivi, and granddaughter Ula Poppy. His love, counsel, and friendship will be sorely missed by us all.

Ann Schechter, M.D.
Thomas L. Slovis, M.D.