

Howard D. Dorfman, M.D.

On October 16th, 2023, Howard D. Dorfman passed away quietly in his home on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. He was 95 years old. He was one of the greatest bone pathologists in the history of modern medicine.

Howard was born in New York City and attended New York University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1947. He earned his medical degree at the State University of New York in Brooklyn (SUNY Downstate). He trained in pathology at The Mount Sinai Hospital from 1952 to 1954 and then at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center from 1954 to 1958. After completing his residency, he became director of Sharon Hospital (Sharon, CT) until 1960. He then moved to Baltimore MD where he became an associate pathologist at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore from 1960 to 1964. He returned to New York in 1964 to become Director of Pathology at the Hospital for Joint Diseases upon the retirement of Henry L. Jaffe, and they worked together until Howard returned to Baltimore as Pathologist in Chief at Sinai of Baltimore. He remained there until 1985, when he joined the Department of Orthopedics at Montefiore Hospital where he spent the remainder of his career, retiring as Professor Emeritus. Upon his return to New York in 1985, he transformed the character and energy of the New York Society of Orthopedic Pathology, which has grown from a local monthly meeting into an educational experience that meets regularly and remotely on 6 continents.

Dr. Dorfman was perhaps best known not only for his encyclopedic knowledge of orthopedic pathology, but as a great author, teacher, and consultant. He co-authored a textbook with Dr. Bogdan Czerniak entitled *Bone Tumors* that is one of the few subspecialty textbooks to literally sell out its entire first publication run and in its second edition, is widely considered to be the most comprehensive text on the subject. Few pathologists, radiologists, and orthopedic surgeons who knew him can say that their relationship with him was not a life changing experience. As a consultant, Dr. Dorfman made it a habit not only to study diagnostic cases sent to him, but to get to know the pathologists who relied on his expertise to help them answer their questions. Many surprised pathologists unexpectedly found themselves discussing their cases with this world-renowned pathologist on the telephone, and he always made those who requested consultations feel like his equals, no matter how easy or difficult the case. An entire generation of bone pathologists from Japan were trained by Dr. Dorfman. He was a founding member of the International Skeletal Society and the last Pathologist to serve as its president. He was given the Henry Jaffe award by the Hospital for Joint Diseases Orthopedic Institute, the Corrine Farrell and the Alan Darby awards of the International Skeletal Society, and the Jean R. Oliver award from SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

Dr. Dorfman was a lover of literature, art, and sailing, but he was devoted to his family. He was pre-deceased by his beloved wife Esther (nee Novick) and was the father of Richard and Peter Dorfman and Leslie Dorfman Davis. He was the grandfather of Susannah Dorfman Wong, Erica Birkner, and Benjamin Dorfman, and great grandfather of Samara and Edmond Wong, Stella and Wesley Birkner, and Donovan, Niamh and

Sheridan Brennan-Dorfman. He will be sorely missed not only by his family, but by all of us to whom he gave so kindly of his knowledge and time.

Michael J. Klein
Edward F. McCarthy