

Obituaries



GALEN V. HENDERSON, MD, FNCS, 56, passed away on December 26, 2023, surrounded by his loving family following a recent illness. A resident of Taunton, MA, Dr. Henderson was the beloved husband of Vanessa M. Britto, MD, MSc, FACP. Dr. Henderson was born in Memphis, TN, and raised in Tunica, MS.

Dr. Henderson attended high school in MS where he excelled academically going on to pursue a BS (cum laude) in chemistry from Tougaloo College in Jackson, MS, and his MD from Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Providence, RI. Meeting at Brown University, Dr. Henderson and Dr. Britto married during Brown's Commencement weekend. For decades that followed they took great pride in the festivity of Brown's Commencement Weekend, always marking their wedding anniversary.

Dr. Henderson had a tremendous and lasting positive impact on every institution and community he was involved in, including Brown University, Tougaloo College, and Brigham and Women's Hospital where he served as Director of Neurocritical Care in the Department of Neurology and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer (CDIO). Dr. Henderson was universally known for his warm smile, thoughtful and insightful assessment of challenging and thorny issues, as well as his steadfast commitment to the well-being of his patients, his colleagues, students of Brown University's Alpert Medical School and everyone he met.

Dr. Henderson completed his residency in the Harvard-Longwood Neurology Training Program and a fellowship in Neurocritical Care at the Brigham. He subsequently joined the Brigham's Neurology Department, where he became the director of Neurocritical Care in 2001. He was the country's first African-American neurology-based neurointensivist and the first African-American Fellow to be inducted into the nation's Neurocritical Care Society (FNCS). During his tenure as Director of the Neurological Intensive Care Unit, the neurocritical care service grew from five to twenty beds and is now one of the busiest ICUs at the Brigham.

Dr. Henderson was the recipient of many academic, service, and community awards, including induction into his Mississippi hometown Tunica Hall of Fame. Dr. Henderson was a thoughtful and collaborative leader and gifted physician who leaves an indelible mark on the Brigham community, the countless patients and families he cared for, and the thousands of faculty, trainees and students whom he served as the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer the Brigham's Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI).

In addition to his work at the Brigham, Dr. Henderson was the founding deputy editor of *Journal Watch Neurology*, editor

of *Reprints in Stroke* and the associate medical director of two federally designated organ procurement organizations. He received awards from three different secretaries of Health and Human Services for his contributions to the development of the Organ Donation National Collaborative. An Assistant Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, where his research focused on clinical trials regarding treatments for stroke and cerebral hemorrhage, Dr. Henderson lectured extensively at the Neurocritical Care Society, the American Academy of Neurology, throughout the country and internationally.

At Brown, he served two terms as a Trustee on the Corporation. He was also the president of the 100,000 member Brown Alumni Association and president of the Brown Medical Alumni Association, a member of the Brown Medicine Magazine Editorial Board, and a member of the Advisory Council on Biology and Medicine and the Advisory Council on Relations with Tougaloo. In 2014, he received the Brown Bear Award from Brown University, the highest honor given for distinguished service and leadership.

In his memory, please consider a donation to the Galen V. Henderson MD'93 and Vanessa M. Britto MD MMSc'96 Medical Scholarship to support underrepresented minority medical students at Brown University by using the following link: <https://go.brown.edu/GalenHendersonMemorialGifts>

Arrangements by Chapman Funerals & Cremations-Wareham. To leave a message of condolence visit: www.chapmanfuneral.com ❖



GEORGES PETER, MD, 85, of Brookline, MA, died peacefully at home on January 11, 2024. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carolyn McClintock Peter, former Head of Winsor School, and their two children, Allison Fairchild Peter, of Newton, MA, and Marc Phillips Peter, of Portsmouth, RI. He is also survived by two grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and his sister, Linette Peter French of Annisquam, MA.

Born in Cambridge, MA, to J. Georges Marc Peter and Helen Mann Peter, he graduated from the Loomis Chaffee School and Harvard College. He attended Dartmouth Medical School and graduated from Harvard Medical School. He trained in pediatrics at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, and Children's Hospital, Boston, followed by fellowships at the National Institutes of Health and Children's Hospital. In 1972, he joined the faculty of the Brown Medical School, where he remained until his retirement, when he was appointed Professor Emeritus. During his 34-year career at Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital, he established the board-certified Division of Pediatric Diseases. He authored or co-authored approximately

175 publications. An active teacher, he was greatly respected by residents and medical students.

Dr. Peter was a devoted pediatrician; he was particularly committed to the prevention of once-common pediatric infectious diseases through immunizations. During his career, he witnessed the disappearance of polio myelitis, marked reduction in cases of measles, and near-elimination of bacterial meningitis. His advocacy for the prevention of infectious diseases led to national recognition, respect, and leadership roles.

He was an active member of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), serving on the Committee on Infectious Diseases for 13 years. He edited five editions of the AAP's highly influential Red Book (Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases). He served on three federal committees: the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines, the National Vaccine Advisory Committee, and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. He was a member of the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization, and he was a president of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society. An elected member of the Society of Pediatric Research, the American Pediatric Society, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, he was also a member of the Board of Directors of the American Committee for the American Memorial Hospital in Reims, France.

Dr. Peter received numerous awards, including the Distinguished Physician Award of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, the AAP Award for Lifetime Contribution to Infectious Diseases Education, and a Special Recognition Award from the US Department of Health and Human Services. At Brown, he was awarded an Emeritus Citation "for 34 years of distinguished service as a teacher, counselor, and scholar."

Dr. Peter was dedicated to his family, spending summers in Annisquam, traveling, and sailing competitively. Devoted to Harvard athletics, he managed the Harvard Stadium scoreboard for 29 years; in 2022, he received the President's Special Award from the Harvard Club of Boston. He was a lifetime fan of the Boston Red Sox. He loved sailing, primarily in the Lightning Class, in which he competed for more than 60 years, winning numerous regattas and sailing in national and international championships. He was a member of the Annisquam Yacht Club, Boston Harvard Club, Rhode Island Harvard Club, University Club (Providence), Niantic Bay Yacht Club, and Longwood Cricket Club.

Georges Peter was a man of integrity, honor, and distinction, and he will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues. A memorial service in Brookline is being planned for the spring. ❖



WILSON FISKE UTTER, MD,

96, died peacefully on January 4, 2024. He was born in Providence and attended Moses Brown School. He went on to attend Amherst College for one year before entering the Army where he served in Japan during the occupation at the end of World War II. After his time overseas, he finished his degree at Amherst, went to Tufts University School of Medicine, and followed in his father's footsteps, becoming a pediatrician in Providence.



They only practiced together for nine years before his father retired, but there was an Utter pediatrician in Providence from 1914 to 2003. Dr. Utter was beloved by generations of patients and parents. He was known for his common sense, good humor and his youthful appearance. In 1994 the atrium at Hasbro Children's Hospital was named in honor of him and his father.

He was an avid fisherman and, from his childhood through to his old age, enjoyed extended hiking and canoeing trips with friends and family to the woods, lakes, and rivers of New Hampshire and northern Maine. Cragged Mountain Farm, a much beloved children's summer camp in Freedom, NH, was founded by his father in 1927. Dr. Utter and his sister Betsey ran the camp for decades, and it was also a central part of his life.

He was predeceased by his wife Isabel Hobson Utter in 2018. He is survived by his daughter Katherine Utter of Brookline, MA, and his three sons and their spouses: Henry and Nancy Utter of Arlington, MA, Philip and Christine Utter of Exeter, NH, and Benjamin Utter and Kathy (Kay) Patch of North Berwick, ME. He is also survived by nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

There will be a celebration of his life at the Providence Friends Meeting House on April 6, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. The Meeting House is located at 99 Morris Ave in Providence. All are invited to bring a story to share. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Jimmy Fund in his name or to an organization of your choice that supports vulnerable children in your community. ❖