

## Obituaries



**DAVID KORN, MD**, beloved husband of Carol Scheman, died on March 10, 2024, shortly after his 91st birthday. A brilliant scientist and academic leader, he devoted his life to academic medicine, health policy and biomedical research.

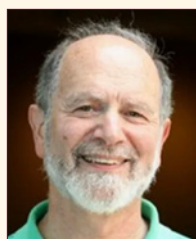
A son of the late Solomon and Claire (Leibman) Korn, he was born in Providence, where he attended Classical High School. After graduating from Harvard College and Medical School, he became a clinical and research pathologist at the NIH. In 1968, he joined the Stanford University Department of Pathology as professor and chair and, over the next 17 years, built one of the top-ranked departments in the country. He was appointed Dean of Stanford Medical School in 1984 and served in that position and as vice president of Stanford until 1995.

Among his many leadership positions in science and medicine, he was a member of the National Academy of Medicine, an AAAS Fellow, a founder of the California Transplant Donor Network and a Presidential appointee as chair of the National Cancer Advisory Board. His subsequent career included chief scientific officer of the Association of American Medical Colleges and Vice Provost for Research at Harvard. His continued commitment to ensuring the integrity of research added to his deep and wide scholarly contributions.

He and his ex-wife, Phoebe Richter Korn, had three sons: Michael and his children, Shira Tova, Shmuel, Zipporah Esther, Ashleigh and Carlyne, and 21 grandchildren; Stephen and his children, Justin and Elyse, and their mother, Jana; and Daniel, his wife, Barbara, and children, Rachel and Andrew. He has been an adoptive father and stepfather to the daughters of his loving and beloved wife, Carol, whom he married in 1997: Rebecca Fiduccia, her partner, Anthony, and son, Rocco; and Joanna Fiduccia, her husband, Josh, and son, Solomon. He was a delighted and delightful grandfather, who especially loved playing, walking and talking with his adored grandchildren.

He was occasionally cantankerous, always principled, deeply concerned about the future of the country and its democracy, dedicated to gender and racial equity and scientific excellence, and a devoted mentor. He leaves an indelible mark on the world and a hole in many hearts.

Contributions in his honor may be made to the Providence Classical High School Alumni Association, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts or Temple Emanu-El, in Providence. ❖



**RICHARD PLOTZ, MD, MPH**, 75, of Providence, died of cancer on March 2, 2024. Dr. Plotz worked as a cytopathologist, holding degrees from Harvard College (undergraduate 1971), the University of Pittsburgh (MD, 1977), and Boston University (MPH).

He was active in the Tolkien fan community of the 1960s, organizing the Tolkien Society of America. He met his wife Judy (née Anker) when she traveled to Brooklyn from Albany to attend a Tolkien Society meeting; they were married in March 1971. He corresponded with Tolkien, and visited him at his home in Oxford.

His interests in puzzles, history, geography, and language converged in his magnum opus: family trees of both his and Judy's families, spanning a dozen generations, which he researched and compiled over more than half a century.

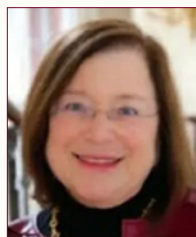
In addition to his wife, Dr. Plotz is survived by his daughter Martha Ingols (husband Kyle, child Aloe); his son Mike Sage (wife Vrie); his brothers Tom (wife Cathy Klion) and Bob (wife Sue). A private funeral has been held.

Those who feel moved to do so may make a donation in Dick's memory at one or more of the following organizations:

JewishGen (<https://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgenerosity/Honors/>)

The Nature Conservancy (<https://preserve.nature.org/page/80429/donate/1>)

American Cancer Society (<https://donate.cancer.org/?campaign=honormemorialbutton>) ❖



**BARBARA SCHEPPS WONG, MD**, 81, died on March 14, 2024 after a long, courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She funded her education by working in various research labs on campus. It was an integral part of her education.

Then it was onto Hahnemann Medical College, where she earned her MD in 1964. She supported herself by working at the Hahnemann Hospital E.R. These years demonstrated her strong work ethic which continued for the rest of her life. Residency training followed at the New England Deaconess Hospital and the Boston City Hospital. In 1964, she moved to Columbus Ohio and found employment at Ohio State University Hospital Radiology Department. There she

encountered her first brush with gender pay discrimination. She pushed her case and won pay parity for the few female doctors employed there at the time.

She then settled in Rhode Island and was hired by Ray Medical Group (subsequently renamed Rhode Island Medical Imaging or "R.I.M.I."). She lived the remainder of her life in Pawtucket and Providence. At a time when there were few women leaders in medicine, Dr. Wong was elected President of R.I.M.I. and served in that role for over 15 years. During that time the group experienced spectacular growth and increasing academic prominence.

She was the guiding force in the founding of the Anne C. Pappas Center for Breast Imaging 28 years ago at R.I. Hospital. She led the way in caring for women with breast disease in R.I. and Southern New England. She left scores of grateful patients who considered her integral to the early diagnosis of their breast cancer and their subsequent successful therapy.

She served as president of the R.I. Hospital Medical Staff Association, a member of the R.I. Hospital Board of Directors and president of the Rhode Island Medical Society. In 2004, she received the prestigious Milton W. Hamolsky outstanding physician award. She was a Clinical Professor of Diagnostic Imaging at the Alpert Medical School.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Dr. Richard Wong, daughter Dr. Deborah R. Wong (Dr. Todd Rothenhaus) and her cherished grandchildren Chris and James of Belmont, MA.

In her memory, consider supporting The Anne C. Pappas Breast Center c/o The R.I. Hospital Foundation, P.O. Box H. Providence, R.I. 02901, Alzheimer's Disease Foundation, Rhode Island Food Bank or the charity of your choice.

Arrangements were in the care of Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel, Providence. For condolences, [www.sugarman-sinai.com](http://www.sugarman-sinai.com)