

In Memoriam: Dudley J. Weider, MD

WE, THE EDITORS AND STAFF of the *International Tinnitus Journal (ITJ)*, have lost a colleague and a friend, Dudley J. Weider. His contributions to otology, neurotology, and tinnitology have been significant and have enhanced our understanding of tinnitus for the benefit of tinnitus patients. The *ITJ* benefited from his timely comments, criticisms, contributions of original manuscripts, and friendship.

With all who were blessed to have known him, he shared his zest for life and his enjoyment of and pride in family and friends. He was dedicated to equality, fairness, and a desire to do good deeds. Dudley, you were very special to us all.

To your wife, Joan, and your wonderful family, thank you for sharing Dudley with us. We thank you, Dudley, for your friendship, counsel, and humanity.

We shall not forget!

CLAUS F. CLAUSSEN, MD
BARBARA GOLDSTEIN, PHD
MICHAEL D. SEIDMAN, MD, FACS
ABRAHAM SHULMAN, MD, FACS



HANOVER—DR. DUDLEY JOHNSTON WEIDER, 66, died suddenly on Friday, February 18, 2005, while skiing into the Dartmouth Grant.

He was born in Norwalk, Ohio, on July 20, 1938, a son of Mary Janet (Johnston) Rogers and Nathaniel Rogers. He graduated from Bay Village High School in Ohio, where he was a member of the undefeated football team and competed in speed skating. He received an undergraduate degree in 1960 from Dartmouth College, where he was a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity and joined Church of Christ his freshman year. He received a medical degree from Tufts University Medical School in 1964.

On June 15, 1963, he was married to Joan Downing of Akron, Ohio.

After the completion of medical school and a rotating internship at St. Luke's Hospital in Cleveland, he was a staff physician and then a service unit director at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Kotzebue, Alaska. He completed his residency in otolaryngology at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland. At the end of his residency, he returned with his family to Alaska as a staff physician at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage, where he became the chief of otolaryngology.

In 1974, he returned with his family to the Upper Valley, where he joined the Hitchcock Clinic. He was a

member of the Dartmouth Medical School faculty, becoming professor of surgery in 1989. He was a member of Mt. Ascutney Hospital staff from 1988 to the present and of Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital staff from 1992 to the present.

He was a physician dedicated to his patients, giving tirelessly of his time, providing compassionate care. Whether he was easing the fears of young children by wearing bear claw slippers into surgery or meeting patients in need at all hours of the day or night, he consistently shared his warmth and concern for all who came under his care.

Dr. Weider was a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head & Neck Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, the Triologic, the A.M.A. Centurion Club—Deafness Research Foundation, the Reserve Commission Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, the New Hampshire and Grafton County Medical Societies, the New England Otolaryngological Society, the New Hampshire Foundation for Medical Care, the New Hampshire Society of Otolaryngology and Maxillo-Facial Surgery, the Society of University Otolaryngologists—Head and Neck Surgeons, the Hitchcock Foundation, SENTAC, the American Otological Society, the American Neurootological Society, the American Rhinologic Society, Alpha Omega

Alpha Honor Medical Society, Societas Baranyensis, the Neurootological and Equilibrimetric Society Reg., and the New England Medical Association.

He was secretary and treasurer of the Grafton County Medical Society from 1978 to 1984, vice president in 1984, and president in 1985. He was secretary of the New Hampshire Medical Society from 1984 to 1988, vice president in 1989, president in 1990, and a trustee from 1988 to the present. He was president of the New Hampshire Society of Otolaryngology and Maxillo-Facial Surgery in 1983. He was a member of the American College of Surgeons Nominating Committee. He was a delegate to the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology and Head & Neck Surgery, Inc., from 1985 to the present, a member of the Prosper Ménière's Society from 1994 to the present, and a councilor to the executive committee of the New England Otolaryngology Society from 1998 to the present.

He published dozens of professional papers, was a contributor to several chapters in books, and gave hundreds of lectures in his field.

He was the current president of the Hanover Lions Club and a member of Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Dr. Weider was a deeply spiritual man, and his involvement in the church was an important and fulfilling part of his life. He was a member of the Lake Mitchell Trout Club, the Montshire Speed Skating Club, and for 31 years an enthusiastic member of the Geriatric Adventure Society.

He had a great love of life. The activities he enjoyed included alpine, telemark, and Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, speed skating, in-line skating, biking, and running. He competed in numerous marathons, including the Burlington, Keene, Boston, and Marine Corps marathons and the first marathon held in Antarctica. For many years, he participated in the Canadian Cross Country Ski Marathon, most recently on February 12 and 13, when he skied 60 miles.

In 1996, he climbed Mount McKinley, where he was responsible for saving the lives of several climbers who fell. In 1988, he received honorable mention for the Denali Pro Mountaineer of the Year outdoor ethics award from ENN Daily News for rendering medical services

at the ranger camp at 14,200 feet on Mount McKinley. He climbed Mount Rainier in 2001. He participated in the Iditaski, Nordic skiing a 200-mile race in Anchorage, Alaska. He skied across the Greenland ice cap and along the Haute Route in the French Alps. In preparation for his adventures, he often mowed the lawn with a pack filled with rocks on his back.

He made annual fishing trips with friends to remote fishing spots in Canada.

While at Dartmouth College, he biked from Hanover to Cleveland. He repeated the trip when his son, David, was in high school and when his daughter Heidi was in middle school. He and his son rode through England and Scotland, meeting up periodically with his wife and daughters. He participated in the Audrey Prouty Century Ride every year. Two years ago, he purchased a folding bike so he could take it with him wherever he went, including the lakes region of Italy. One of his great joys was going on long in-line skating excursions with his daughter Mary. In the last few years, he participated in Dartmouth track events, competing with the weight and hammer. He was always eager and willing to join any activity, from soccer with his children and grandchildren to headstand contests. Dr. Weider was an avid reader and also enjoyed playing the piano.

Dr. Weider enjoyed his world travels with his wife at his side. He loved being able to see different cultures, meet and learn about new people, and try different things, including bungee jumping in New Zealand at age 60. He also enjoyed going to Sanibel Island, FL, each year with family and friends. Despite his professional commitments, he always managed to support his children and grandchildren in their activities. A member of the Mixed Nuts Supper Club, he loved having people over to his home for dinner.

He is survived by his wife, of Hanover; a son, David Weider, of Thetford; two daughters, Mary Feia, of Menomonie, WI, and Heidi Nichols, of Lyme; a sister, Nathalie Bridegam, of Amherst, MA; five grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother, Mary Janet Weider; his adoptive father, Roger Weider; and his father, Col. Nathaniel Rogers.

Valley News
White River Junction, VT

I WAS UNBELIEVABLY SHOCKED and deeply saddened to find out about the unexpected passing of my old friend and colleague, Dudley Weider, MD. Dudley, in his very quiet, reserved, and New England master-of-understatement ways, was very impressive in so many areas of his life, family, and work and in his incredible

dedication to his patients and their health and well-being. He continually pushed himself to new levels of excellence and achievement. Maybe he was a closet overachiever and pushed himself too hard, but I was particularly impressed with his health and fitness activities; his eight-day cross-country ski trek across Green-

land and all his other physically demanding activities—biking, hiking, skiing, running, and the like—which he did to the max. At the annual Prosper Ménière's Society (PMS) winter meetings, he always organized a cross-country ski day for all those who did not downhill ski. He personally made sure that everyone participated, made sure that they got the right-fitting shoes and skis, gave each and every new skier a personal lesson, and started each one out by his side to guarantee that they were okay. He always focused on the new members so that they felt welcome and part of the group. He did the same thing for any new members who were lucky enough to go downhill skiing with him. He was truly amazing. He was an outstanding host.

Because of his physical fitness focus, it is so unexpected that he passed away suddenly in the midst of a routine vigorous exercise activity. He was the least likely person to pass away when he seemed so robust and fit. We will all sorely miss him.

His dedication to his patients was also legendary. One time, I was staying at his home as a visiting professor at Dartmouth. After a wonderful dinner, he spent three straight hours talking to several patients and trying to help them to cope with their intractable dizziness. I know that his wonderful wife, Joan, and family will concur that this was a very typical evening's activity at the Weiders. His family willingly gave up some quality time with him because they knew how important giving of himself to his patients was for him.

Dudley had an inquisitive and open mind. He always looked at all the possibilities without any bias. He always called his colleagues and the experts to try to ensure that he had analyzed the clinical and personal-emotional problem and looked at all the possibilities. Whatever he thought would be the most help and least risky for his patients was the course of action that he inevitably recommended. His patients loved and adored

him and always brought him something special when they came to the clinic visits. He always brought lots of goodies home, gifts from his patients.

At the PMS meetings, Dud always asked the best questions and really enjoyed a deep and provocative exchange of ideas on all sides of a topic. I think his openness and ability to interact informally on clinical and basic science areas were two of the aspects that made him such a strong supporter of the PMS.

Dudley was a founding member of the PMS and served on the board of directors since its inception. He and Joan attended *all* the PMS winter ski meetings in Aspen and also *all* the meetings of the International Symposium on Inner Ear Medicine and Surgery in Snowmass, Colorado. He served on the program committee and the awards selection committee and was actively involved in all aspects of making the PMS a great success.

I am truly sorry that he will not be able to attend the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the PMS in Austria in March. He would have been very proud of the accomplishments that he was instrumental in bringing to fruition. I will propose at that meeting that Dudley Weider, MD, be given posthumously the Prosper Ménière's Society Gold Medal Honor Award for all his contributions on all levels to the success of the society and for his dedication to the best possible care of all his patients—particularly, those on whom everyone else had given up.

Dudley never would give up. He was the *best* and will be greatly missed by all his friends, colleagues, and patients and by his wonderful family. Our sincere condolences to Joan and the "kids." Words cannot express how important Dudley was to all of us who were fortunate to have had him in our lives.

I. KAUFMAN ARENBERG, MD

I FIRST MET DUD WEIDER in 1984 at a neurotology meeting in Florida. He liked a paper on fistula testing that I had presented and invited me to come up to Dartmouth and participate in a course that he was sponsoring. That was a lucky day in my life.

Dudley was the perfect combination of a true physician, friend, family man, surgeon, investigator, and personal resource. He was also an amazing athlete, climbing mountains, performing marathons and cross-country skiing across vast spaces. He worked hard for his patients, yet found time to do clinical research and travel extensively, interacting with others in our field at those times.

He was respected by all and a friend to all. When I informed Ron Steenerson of Dudley's untimely death,

Ron told me, "Dudley was a good friend!" I replied that lots of people would say that. I understand that the loss that I feel will be felt by many—and not only physicians.

Nancy and I attended the Hanover memorial service for Dudley. The church couldn't hold all the attendees: We were seated in the vestry. The outpouring of locals (in a small town) was awesome. The town was filled with Dudley's friends and patients (most of whom had apparently become his friends).

Dudley has been missed, and I honestly feel that the mold is broken. His passing is a great loss. But it has been a great privilege to know him, a privilege to interact with him professionally, and a privilege to know his

family. He has enriched my life and, I am sure, that of many others.

His work in our field was important and will live on. His clinical observations were painstaking and will always

be of value. His example of living will always be an ideal to those who knew him and to those whom he loved.

JOEL F. LEHRER, MD

ON FEBRUARY 18, 2005, Prof. Dudley J. Weider, MD, FACS, suddenly and unexpectedly died at the age of 66 years. He was skiing in Canada at the time of his death, which was caused by a cardiac tamponade. However, why he suffered a cardiac tamponade remains unclear.

I had known Dudley for eight years. We first met in 1997 at a Ménière's Society Meeting in Aspen. We clicked straight away and, from day one, we developed a close and honest friendship. When we parted at the end of each conference that we attended, we looked forward to meeting again in the following year, and we repeated that pattern every year. Dudley was looking forward to attending the Thirty-Second Annual Meeting of the Neurootological and Equilibrimetric Society in Melbourne, and we had plans to see the outback of Australia together with his wife, Joan. He was scheduled to present three papers on topics that had captured his interest over the last years: perilymphatic fistula, deep-ear pain, and perilymphatic hypertension.

Dudley had vast experience as an otological surgeon. He did not hesitate to share his knowledge with his col-

leagues, always giving them good advice, encouragement, and support in their endeavors. In addition, he was a great sportsman. He loved skiing, rafting, mountain climbing, bushwalking, cross-country skiing, and much more. He used to get up early in the morning, while we were still asleep, to climb Buttermilk Mountain in Aspen. He would then attend the morning scientific session, sit down as close as possible to the presenter of a paper, take off his shoes, and doze off, only to be alert and present when the discussions started. Dudley would then leave the conference room without worrying about his shoes. It was Joan who picked them up later because Dudley did not remember where he left them.

We have lost a great friend and a loyal supporter of our Society. We will miss him and will mourn the loss of a good colleague for a long time to come. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and particularly to Joan, who has been not only a tremendously supportive wife but Dudley's closest partner and friend.

BURKHARD FRANZ, MD

I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE to have had the opportunity to know Dudley Weider, MD, on both a personal and a professional level. Dudley infused his medical practice with the same zeal and enthusiasm that he had for life. He was devoted to his wife, family, and friends, and his patients were as important to him as if they were family. As pleasant, friendly, and easygoing as he was, he had little tolerance for bureaucratic haggling and made

no effort to curtail those feelings. Dudley served as a role model not only in how to relate to patients but in how to balance life's many responsibilities. Dudley's sincere, caring devotion has touched his patients to a degree that will remain an inspiration to all of us who are fortunate to have known him.

GLENN D. JOHNSON, MD

I WAS VERY SADDENED by the recent untimely death of Dudley. We all are familiar with his great clinical and scientific contributions. What I would like to address are his more personal qualities, which I had the privilege of learning from close association with Dudley.

I had the privilege of going on several fishing trips with Dudley, during which I came to know him very well. He was a very kind, warm, and caring individual and a wonderful family man. Dudley was also most considerate, allowing others to have the favored fishing spot, always thinking of others first. He was a pleasure to be with. He had a dry, wonderful sense of humor, which we all enjoyed.

I was continually amazed by his athletic prowess. He and I were contemporaries, and I could not even imagine doing the things that he accomplished athletically. Not too many years ago, he cross-country skied across Greenland. He loved to rollerblade and actively participated in that sport until his untimely death. It is ironic that he passed on participating in strenuous physical activity, doing one of the things he loved.

Dudley truly lived life to the fullest. He is sorely missed by all who knew him.

DERALD E. BRACKMANN, MD

DR. DUDLEY WEIDER passed away this year while engaged in one of his favorite past-times: cross-country skiing. I received this news with shock and disbelief, for I knew him to be a man of tremendous endurance and stamina, who only a few years ago was seeking out such extreme physical pursuits as climbing Mt. McKinley.

"Dud" was an outstanding and dedicated physician, holding forth from the Hitchcock Center at Dartmouth to tackle the most extreme of vestibular problems. We often sought each other's counsel on a difficult case, talking on the telephone into the night, which was three hours later for him than for me. When we met at conferences, we talked for hours about our cases and their ramifications. He had an intimate and unrivaled understanding of the physiology of the inner ear. He would often present his work each year at the International Tin-

DUDLEY WEIDER has been a close friend since I met him at a Prosper Ménière's Society Meeting in Aspen. If there is one word that describes Dudley, it is *presence*. However, a second would be *caring*, I believe it is these qualities that were the key to Dudley's inspiration and success in diagnosing and treating clinical conditions, the management of which eludes others.

I was fortunate to work briefly with Dudley and to meet some of his patients. They suffered recurrent perilymphatic fistula, and Dudley was seeking answers beyond the normal realms of our understanding. The cause of the fistula is often a sudden increase in the intracranial pressure, but why were these individuals prone to recurrence of this condition? Through lumbar puncture, Dudley proved that the answer was chronic intracranial hypertension and that this rendered the ear prone to fistula. It is true to say that others had come to a similar conclusion; the difference is that Dudley's goal was to research and publish on this condition and

I MET DUDLEY WEIDER through a mutual friend, David Williams, another arctic aficionado. Dudley had a great experience working for the public health service in the arctic.

My contact with Dudley was usually made at the major spring and fall meetings, specialty meetings, and fishing trips. Dudley and I usually jogged together, at which times he would regale me with his latest adventure. That could be skiing across the Greenland icecap, climbing Mt. Ranier or Denali, or running the first mar-

nitus Forum, making exciting observations. He seemed to be close to a significant breakthrough, or perhaps he had made one that was beyond our ability to comprehend.

But more than being a great physician, he was a great friend to many of us. When one sought Dud's help on a personal matter, he did not hesitate to throw everything aside and come to our aid. He and his wife, Joan, offered solace in some of our darkest hours. He was always optimistic, encouraging, and understanding.

The medical profession has prematurely lost an outstanding physician who still had much to offer. He was one of the giants in the field. However, most of all for those who knew him well, we have lost a much-loved friend.

JOHN M. EPLEY, MD

its treatment. He thereby filled the void that existed in terms of research publications.

Dudley's caring nature won the trust of his patients as he sought treatments to meet their individual needs. His success in this area is the mark of his tireless pursuit of answers to this condition. I believe that his treatment with ventricular shunts was a brave step and now promises patients release from their disorder. Some of his successes were in those persons who also suffered from supposedly intractable dizziness and tinnitus. I think Dudley knew that ventricular shunts would have wider application than that of perilymphatic fistula. I trust that patients worldwide will greatly benefit from Dudley's pioneering work.

Dudley's quiet presence and caring nature are still with us today, and it is a lesson I keep with me. It is all too easy to hear only one's own thoughts; however, to be at one with his surroundings and to listen to his patients were Dudley's key to inspiration.

ROBERT MARCHBANKS, PHD

athon in Antarctica. I would make him run through his most recent adventure in great detail, thereby making me a vicarious world traveler.

When at home (not very often), Dudley would be running, cross-country skiing, or cycling. Just listening to Dudley made you tired.

I miss Dudley's kind manner, his many adventures, and his friendship.

RONALD STEENERSON, MD