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Emmanuel Shapira, MD, PhD
1933–1998

Emmanuel Shapira MD, PhD, FACMG died after a brief illness on Tuesday, May 5, 1998. He was 64 years old. "Manny" is mourned by his family and a multitude of friends, patients, colleagues, and students. He was a pioneer and leader in Medical Genetics locally, regionally, and nationally. At the time of his death, he was Director of the Human Genetics Program, Hayward Genetic Center, Tulane University School of Medicine. He held the Karen Gore Chair in Human Genetics and was Professor of Pediatrics and Biochemistry. He pioneered in coordinating regional and public health genetics programs through the Southeastern Regional Genetics Group and served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Professors for Human or Medical Genetics and the Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders. He published 107 important chapters and manuscripts covering topics in immunogenetics, biochemical genetics, and clinical genetics.

Manny was born in Kovno, Lithuania and moved to Israel with his family when he was two years old. He received his MD from Hebrew University, Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem in 1958. He was a Medical Officer in the Israeli Army from 1959 to 1962 and a Pediatric Resident at the Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot under Dr. Stanley Levin 1958, 1962 to 1966. He received his PhD in immunochemistry from the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1968 and was appointed to the Pediatric Department of Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem from 1968 to 1973. He was recruited in 1973 by Dr. Henry Nadler to be an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Northwestern University Medical School where he continued until moving to New Orleans in 1984.

Manny was a blessing to all who were fortunate enough to know him. A thoroughly honest human being who avoided pomp in favor of content, was caring and loving to his family, colleagues, and students. In the Southeastern Regional Genetics Group he pioneered popular courses for Medical Students and Biochemical technologists and generally improved the professional status of Medical Genetics in the Southeast. He took care of more than 1000 patients a year and administrated the growth and development of Tulane's Hayward Genetics Center.

Dr. Shapira is survived by his loving wife Shoshana, four daughters, and a grandson. Sigal Shapira lives in New York; Noah and her husband Mel Levy and their son, Adam Levy live in Chicago; Yael Shapira lives in Atlanta and Roni Shapira lives in Chicago. Manny's sister, Irit Kuperberg, lives in Tel Aviv.

Lester Weiss, MD
1930–1998

Dr. Lester Weiss, age 68 years, died peacefully at home on May 23, 1998. Dr. Weiss had a powerful and positive influence on the provision of clinical genetics services in Michigan. He earned his MD at Hahnemann Medical School and was a resident physician at St. Christopher Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. He was board certified in Pediatrics in 1962 and in Medical Genetics in 1982, and he was a charter member of the American College of Medical Genetics. He joined the staff of Henry Ford Hospital in 1966 and was appointed Chair of the Department of Pediatrics in 1974. He was the leader in the Tay-Sachs screening efforts in Michigan during the 1970s and early 1980s. In 1980, he became the director of the Medical Genetics and Birth Defects Center, which he developed into the Department of Medical Genetics in 1996. The genetics program, led by Dr. Weiss, was the largest in Michigan, and consistently provided the most up-to-date services to its patients. Dr. Weiss was the first physician to have chaired two departments at Henry Ford Hospital. He pioneered the concept of genetics field clinics, and thereby, served patients throughout southeastern Michigan with clinics in Bay City, Midland, Pontiac, Port Huron, and Saginaw. His innovative telemedicine technology was featured in *Time* magazine in 1996. Dr. Weiss' career was recognized widely; he was honored with many awards including the 1994 Pediatrician of the Year Award by the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the 1997 induction into the CATCH for a Cure Hall of Fame, and the 1997 Distinguished Career Award by the Henry Ford Alumni Association. Dr. Weiss will be remembered fondly by his legion of colleagues, residents, fellows, and students, and for his many academic contributions. It is noteworthy that his first publication was on the genetics of cancer cells because he won his battle with the disease by living with great dignity, good humor, and a consistent interest in the welfare of others. Dr. Weiss is survived by his wife Martha, his daughters Leslie, Diane, and Gail, his four grandchildren Alan, Eli, Michelle, and Elyssa, and by his two brothers, Howard and Ben.

Beth Fine Kaplan, MS, CGC
1956–1998

Beth Fine Kaplan, MS, CGC, consummate genetic counselor, died of breast cancer at age 41 on May 12, 1998 in Chicago, IL. Beth was an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology and coordinator of the graduate program in genetic counseling at Northwestern University. She was instrumental in developing the program which accepted its first class in 1991; the program has since graduated more than 30 students.

Before changing her focus to teaching, Beth worked as a genetic counselor at Boys Town Institute and Children's Memorial Hospital in Omaha, NE and at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center and Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Chicago, IL. She was lucky to work with two clinical geneticists, Mark Lubinsky and Gene Pergament, who encouraged her development and enjoyed her successes. Highlights of her career included serving as coordinator of the NIH CVS and Amniocentesis Study and as Principal Investigator on "Genetic Counselors as Educators on Human Genome Issues"-a large grant from the National Center for Human Genome Research.

Beth was involved on numerous levels in the National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC), serving on the editorial boards of the newsletter and the journal, chairing educational conferences and the Human Genome Project Subcommittee. She served as President of the NSGC in 1986 to 1987, at a point when the Society had just exceeded 600 members. Beth ushered in a new era by envisioning and developing the first Executive Director position of the NSGC, centralizing all NSGC operations in one office, and allowing the profession to expand in scope. In 1994, she was the first recipient of the Society's highest honor, the Natalie Weissberger Paul National Achievement Award.

Beth completed her 5-year term on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) in December 1997. She was a member of the Accreditation Committee and served as vice-president for 2 years. In addition to her responsibilities in program review and item writing for the certification examination, Beth was instrumental in the development of practice-based competencies for genetic counseling students. These competencies have been incorporated into the curricula of graduate programs and are a focus of the ABGC accreditation reviews. In May 1997, Beth presented an overview of the ABGC at a satellite meeting held in conjunction with the European Society of Human Genetics conference in Italy. As a member of the American College of Medical Genetics' Joint Committee on Professional Practice and Guidelines, she helped to write and then to implement a New York State Department of Health grant to develop, disseminate, and evaluate two guidelines in medical genetics. In addition, Beth served on the Information and Education Committee of the American Society of Human Genetics and was a member of the NIH DOE Working Group on Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications of the Human Genome Project.

Beth was a dynamic speaker on a broad range of topics. She liked to present to groups unfamiliar with the genetic counseling process or profession. Recent highlights included presentations to the Society for Health and Human Values, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, the Institute for Jewish Medical Ethics, and the National Association of Women's Health Professionals.

It is deserving of special mention that Beth bravely became involved in cancer genetics counseling, program development, and policy-making at a point when it had become clear that she was dying of the disease herself. She worked to develop the cancer genetics program at the Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center at Northwestern and was a member of the Hereditary Susceptibility Working Group of the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. Besides her talents in genetic counseling, research, teaching, and speaking, it is impossible to talk about Beth without trying to capture her incredible gift for friendship. She was able to make instant connections even with casual acquaintances and always kept track of the trials and tribulations of those she felt most passionate about. She could remember a family story that friends had told her years before! The same combination of intelligence and heart which made her an excellent genetics counselor, made her a wonderful friend. Beth's energy and spirit allowed her to pack, what seems in retrospect like a full allotment of life, into a few short decades. She will be terribly missed by her friends and colleagues in the genetics community. She is survived by her husband, Dan, and her boys, Joshua (age 11) and Aaron (age 8). (Contributions from Karen Greendale with thanks to Diane Baker, Bea Leopold, Ginny Corson, and Judy Schiffman.)