



IN MEMORIAM

In memoriam—Alan Ivan Green, MD (1943–2020)

Joseph T. Coyle¹, Paul E. Holtzheimer² and Carl Salzman³*Neuropsychopharmacology* (2021) 46:1058–1059; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41386-021-00966-y>

Alan Ivan Green, MD, a Fellow in the ACNP, died at age 77 at home on Thanksgiving Day 2020 with his wife Franny and his children Isobel and Henry at his bedside. Alan succumbed to an oral cancer that menaced him for 14 years.

Alan was born in Norwalk, Connecticut to Dr. Howard and Irene Wouk Green. He was the middle of three boys, all of whom became physicians like their father. Alan attended public schools in Norwalk before matriculating at Columbia University ('65), majoring in History. He then attended Johns Hopkins School of Medicine ('69). After first year, he took a summer elective at UCSF's Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute where he studied patients profoundly impaired by substance abuse. The experience kindled his life-long interest in substance abuse and chronic mental illness. Back at Hopkins, he spent electives in the research laboratory of Solomon Snyder, MD, who was also completing his residency in psychiatry at the time.

During medical school, Alan co-authored five peer-reviewed scientific publications including one in *Nature* from his research in the Snyder lab on neurotransmitter inactivation in brain.

He did an internship in Medicine at the Beth Israel Hospital in Boston and then, to satisfy his military requirements in this time of the Vietnam War, he was accepted into the Public Health Service as a Staff Associate at the National Institute for Mental Health. Jerome Jaffe, MD, the head of Nixon's Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention, recruited him to be his personal assistant. After 2 years, he returned to Boston to begin his residency in Psychiatry at Massachusetts Mental Health Center (MMHC), arguably the most competitive in the country. Tragically, in the next year, he was felled by a near fatal case cytomegalic virus that kept him bed-bound for nearly 7 years. Alan related that this experience of chronic illness deepened his empathy for and commitment to individuals with chronic, severe mental disorders.

After recovery, he returned to MMHC to complete his residency and commence his career in psychiatric research, which appeared to be a herculean task as he had not published a scientific article in 15 years since medical school. With mentors, the late Joseph Schildkraut, MD and Carl Salzman, MD, he emerged himself into research on the pharmacologic management of schizophrenia with a growing interest in the unique properties of clozapine. Alan discovered and carefully validated that clozapine, in addition to its greater clinical efficacy, had a unique property of attenuating substance abuse in patients with chronic schizophrenia. Alan was soon recognized internationally for his deep expertise in neuropsychopharmacology and was named the head of the Commonwealth Research Center at MMHC.

After recovering from the virus, Alan had the great good fortune to meet a young Columbia Law School graduate, Frances Cohen, JD, who went on to a distinguished career in private and public sector law. They were married in 1983 at the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue in Manhattan. In 1994, they were blessed with twins, Henry and Isobel, who became the center of Alan's life.

In 2002, Alan became the Chairman and Raymond Sobel Professor of Psychiatry at Dartmouth Medical School, a position that he held for the next 18 years. He had a profound effect on the Department of Psychiatry and the neuroscience community, working tirelessly to expand resources and faculty devoted to neuroscience. Notably, in addition to the chairmanship of Psychiatry, he was appointed Professor of Pharmacology, Professor of Molecular and Systems Biology, Associate Dean for Clinical and Translational Science and Director of the NIH funded

¹Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, McLean Hospital, 115 Mill Street, Belmont, MA 02478, USA; ²Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, One Medical Center Drive Lebanon, NH & Deputy for Research, National Center for PTSD, US Department of Veterans Affairs, White River Junction, Montpelier, VT 05009, USA and ³Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Mass Mental Health Center, 1330 Beacon Street #207, Brookline, MA 02446, USA
Correspondence: Joseph T. Coyle (joseph_coyle@hms.harvard.edu)

Received: 8 January 2021 Accepted: 8 January 2021
Published online: 8 February 2021

Dartmouth Clinical and Translational Science Institute. For nearly 40 years, Alan's research was supported by NIH grants.

These impressive academic, administrative and research accomplishments do not fully capture the essence of Alan. He was upbeat, curious, energetic, warm, caring of others and always available. He maintained this optimism, this empathy for others in

pain in spite of a life marked by serious and persistent health challenges. He will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

Respectfully,

Joseph T Coyle, MD, Paul E Holtzheimer, MD and Carl Salzman, MD