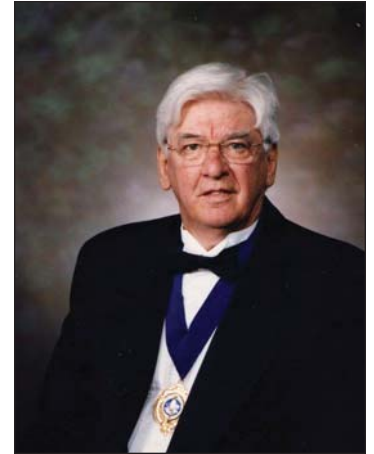

IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam: Dr. Normand Sullivan 1941- 2008



The Canadian Urological Association (CUA), the Quebec Urological Association (QUA), and the Northeastern Section (NES) of the American Urological Association (AUA) have lost a great thinker and a hard-working, honest, and committed leader with the death of Dr. Normand Sullivan. Normand died at home in Ste. Anne de Sorel on November 10, 2008. He was 67 years old. He was a happy, humble, and outgoing physician who loved urology, his patients, and his colleagues. His compassion touched all his patients, and his generosity made the lives of other urologists more fulfilling.

When asked to describe her father's life, his daughter Kimberly said: "My father (Norm) was born into a poor, French-speaking, Catholic farming family that lived near the Quebec-United States border. Like his six siblings, he attended the local one-room schoolhouse. There he studied until the last available grade, which was grade 6. Wanting further education, he enrolled in the local English Protestant school, where grade 7 was available. Three months later, his priest found out about this and offered to send him to a classical college, Valleyfield Seminary, in exchange for the family's \$7.00 a month government allowance and a promise that Norm would study to become a priest. Thus, Norm entered the seminary, and to help pay for his boarding costs, from age 13 to 17, he spent his summers working either at a cannery or at an experimental farm.

"At 17, Norm discovered girls at the convent next door, and he dropped his promise to become a priest. He told his mentor that he would become a doctor instead, to which the priest replied that this was a "close enough second choice"! In 1961, Norm graduated from this classical school with a combined BA and BSc degree, and he entered medical school at the University of Montreal. His tuition fees there were paid through the Canadian Armed Forces' Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. After graduating from medical school in 1966, he served his mandatory three years as a medical officer in Victoria, BC.

"In 1970, Norm was accepted into the Urology residency program at McGill University under Dr. K. McKinnon. On his first day at McGill, Norm met a nursing student, Marjorie Watts, who would later become his wife. Dr. McKinnon appointed Norm as the first resident to act as a liaison between English and French residency programs in Montreal hospitals. In 1974, Norm spent six months as Chief Resident at l'Hôpital Notre-Dame followed by six months as Chief Resident at Royal Victoria Hospital. He received his fellowship in Urology, FRCS (C), in 1975, the same year he married Marjorie.

"Still eager to continue his education, Norm studied in Europe, first in Barcelona under Professor Gil Vernet and then in London under Professor Richard Turner-Warwick. He returned to Montreal and worked at l'Hôpital Notre-Dame until 1978 when he left to set up a private medical practice in l'Hôpital Hotel-Dieu in Sorel. He practiced medicine in Sorel until 2004 when compromised lung function that required oxygen therapy forced him to retire.

"Dad's love for his family was unconditional, and he taught me and my brothers Michael and Paul that 'no dream is too big to dream'."

Our colleague Normand was President of the QUA from 1987 to 1989, President of the NES (AUA) in 1992, and President of the CUA in 1996. In recognition of his exceptional contribution to the NES (AUA), he was awarded the organization's Distinguished Service Award in 1997, which was one of only eight such awards given in the organization's 60-year history. The CUA presented Normand with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003, in recognition of his contribution to the CUA Scholarship Foundation and his work on the Executive Committee over several years. In 2000, he received the Jean Charbonneau Prize from the QUA, in recognition of his exceptional service for that organization. Normand was also very active in the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU). Dr. Mostafa Elhilali worked to establish this organization as a source of academic knowledge for urologists around the world, and Dr. Sullivan helped organize satellite meetings that were attended by many Canadian urologists.

In 1990, as part of the Development Committee of the NES (AUA) — along with Jack Sales, MD, Anthony Passaretti, MD, and Datta Wagle, MD — Normand helped create the Research and Education Fund, which has, over the years, granted 22 scholarships to young, research-oriented urologists. Normand was elected treasurer of the CUA Scholarship Foundation, and within five years, this Foundation became self-sufficient and was able to grant five to six scholarships a year. These scholarships have elevated the quality of the specialty of urology, not only in Canada but also in the United States.

Normand was also very active in the Canadian Liberal Party, and if his health had permitted it, he would have run as a candidate for the federal government.

Among his many fine qualities, Normand demonstrated an exceptional ability to respond to a broad range of overlapping issues with clarity and thoughtfulness. He was acutely insightful, poignantly sensitive, and sensibly unflappable in dealing with issues and people alike. His unbridled enthusiasm and enthusiastic wisdom were laudable. Our good friend, Dr. Normand Sullivan, through supportive and sustained commitment and dedication stood up to challenges with poise and dignity. He gave freely of himself, not out of obligation, but out of love. With his active mind and lifelong curiosity, he never grew old. He was the embodiment of humility, hard work, honesty, dignity, and above all love and friendship for each and every one he touched. His greatness was in his simplicity, straightforwardness, and undaunted courage, and a giving personality.

To continue the work that Normand has started, we must be willing to submerge our own self interest for the common good of our organizations, as he demonstrated to us. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a clarion call to recognize Normand's unselfish contributions and dedication to our organizations, and to humanity at large. It is not what he had, not what he did, which directly expresses his worth, but what he was. The man who reaches for a star is admired, but the man who helps others reach theirs is loved.

Well done, Dr. Normand Sullivan. We bow to you with reverence.

Respectfully,

Jack Sales, MD
Datta Wagle, MD