

Michael Schachter, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology died unexpectedly in July 2020. We have lost a leading clinical pharmacologist, an outstanding teacher and mentor, and a uniquely cultured and humane individual.

Mike was born on July 18th, 1950 in Budapest, Hungary the last of three children (he had two older half-sisters). His parents had survived the Holocaust receiving help from Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat and humanitarian. Mike told me once that 'but for Wallenberg I wouldn't be here.' In 1956 following the suppression of the Hungarian Revolution, Mike's father left Hungary to move with his wife and Mike to north London where he set-up as a GP at the advanced age of 59. Mike grew up in London and followed a family tradition by training in medicine. He qualified from University College London and University College Hospital London in 1974, where he also obtained an intercalated degree in biochemistry.

After completing his postgraduate training in General Medicine, Mike began his research career by studying the clinical pharmacology of neurological drugs in Parkinson's disease and narcolepsy at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College Hospital Medical School with David Marsden and David Parkes. This was followed by a move to the MRC Unit and the University Department of Clinical Pharmacology at Oxford headed by David Graham-Smith. There he continued to work on the pharmacology of the central nervous system and began studies on serotonin pharmacology in platelets. In 1984 he joined the Department of Clinical Pharmacology at St Mary's Hospital London headed by Peter Sever, and it was here that I first met him. From the first I was struck by the breadth of his knowledge, not just in pharmacology but in music, history and art, along with his perceptiveness and kindness. Accompanying Mike to an international scientific conference was always a particular pleasure since it not only provided an opportunity for fruitful discussion of science but also a chance to benefit from Mike's knowledge of local art and culture, and also the location of the best restaurants.

In 1988 St Mary's became part of Imperial College and in 1989 Mike became a British Heart Foundation Senior Research Fellow and was appointed Senior Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacology. He also served as honorary consultant physician at St Mary's Hospital specialising in Hypertension. Mike would remain at Imperial College London for the rest of his career and his research became more focused on vascular biology and wider aspects of therapeutics, including important contributions to evidence on prescribing errors. He authored or edited several books related to his interests in vascular biology, clinical pharmacology and adverse effects of drugs and acted as an editor for various journals, including the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology and the Journal of the Renin-Angiotensin Aldosterone System. He was also a member of a number of ethics committees and more recently acted as chair of a Regional Ethics Review Board

While at Imperial, Mike increasingly became involved in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in clinical pharmacology and in the development of new curricula in what was for Imperial College, a new Medical School. As part of this role

he took on responsibility for the tutorship and welfare of medical students. He discharged this role with characteristic wisdom, sympathy and compassion. Many young doctors owe so much to Mike's support and guidance, and his loss will be sorely felt by numerous past medical students.

Despite his extensive circle of friends in UK and abroad, his love of music (particularly Baroque opera), arts, and dining out, Mike was essentially a private person. His warmth, humour and humanity will be much missed by his colleagues, students and friends.