



Dietrich P. Blumer M.D.

JUL 20, 1929 - SEP 29, 2017



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Dietrich Peter Blumer, M.D., age 88, of Memphis, TN, passed away September 29, 2017. Memorial Park Funeral Home is handling cremation arrangements and a family memorial gathering is being planned for a later date. Dr. Blumer was a psychiatrist and leading figure in the field of epilepsy as it relates to psychiatry. Among some of the distinguished universities he worked for are Johns Hopkins University, Harvard Medical School, Boston University, University of Michigan, and the University of Tennessee at Memphis where he was currently Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry. He worked at many notable hospital appointments, including a stint at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit where one of his duties was Team Psychiatrist for the Detroit Tigers during their 1984 World Series Championship season. Dr. Blumer wrote or contributed to more than three dozen books relating to psychiatry. He was a regular contributor and on the board of the leading psychiatric journals. He travelled the world extensively giving lectures, all the while maintaining a practice that allowed him to serve patients and mentor doctoral residents. He earned his medical degree from the University of Zurich Medical School and completed his psychiatric residencies at Washington University in Saint Louis and at Sheppard & Enoch Pratt Hospital in Towson, Maryland. In addition to his medical career, Dr. Blumer also served eight years in the Swiss army from 1948-1956. Among his many passions and interests were the study of art – especially Van Gogh – vacationing on the beach, tennis, anything Swiss, and listening to classical music, loud. Dietrich Peter Blumer was born July 20, 1929 to Dietrich and Gertrud (Gränicher) Blumer in Lucerne, Switzerland. He became a naturalized United States citizen in 1962. He is survived by his wife of thirty years Beverly (Hesse) Blumer, his son from a previous marriage Dietrich Blumer (Judy), his son from a previous marriage David Blumer, his stepson Eric Myers, his stepdaughter Valerie McCoy, and eleven grandchildren and step-



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grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his daughter from a previous marriage Carol (Blumer) Crandall and one step-grandchild.



Tribute Wall

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Steven A. Sandstrom posted:

I can confess that Dr. Blumer has influenced my practice of medicine significantly. I have read his publications, and he even spoke to me over the phone when I had some questions to him as a resident-in-training. I will always remember him fondly.

October 6 at 5:06 PM



Tammy Beard posted:

My name is Tammy Beard and I met Dr. Blumer when I had Right Temporal Lobe seizure surgery in May of 1992. Dr Blumer was a lifesaver for me and I admired him very much. He was my doctor until he retired and I loved and appreciated him very much. I live in Owensboro, Ky. but I made the trip to Memphis, Tennessee to see him as my doctor once a year for anxiety and depression. My prayers are with his family and I send my deepest condolences. There will never be another doctor or just a person to talk with like Dr. Blumer!

November 7 at 2:10 PM



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JD

Joel Reisman M.D. posted:

I knew Dietrich thru the department of psychiatry and tennis at the Racket Club. He was truly a gentleman and a scholar. He was always smiling and seemed so happy to see and I him. I have been enriched by my association with him.

October 15 at 9:55 AM

FR

Francine June 25 at 9:17 AM

I was a resident at the University of TN, Memphis. He was a gifted scholar and person. I learned about treating neuropsychiatric disorders, specifically temporal lobe epilepsy. I would see him at various psychiatric conferences, I was delighted seeing him and felt that he felt the same way. Through my years of practicing, what I learned from him, helped me to treat my patient's. Countless times times I've thought about him and I smile. Saddened that he passed away.

EG

Ed Gfeller July 3 at 6:01 AM

I met Dieter at Hopkins. He was in the Psychiatry department and I was in Neuroanatomy. It turned out that we were in the same boy scout group in Lucerne and his family had a clothing store where my mother used to buy stuff. When I was 7, I was sent to Adelboden to a children's home because it was run by Dieters aunt, sister Olga Graenicher. The assumption was that I had TB which I didn't. When I presented a paper on diagnoses of elderly patients at Sheppard Pratt, I asked Dieter to be the discussant. That was a mistake. We usually got together at the APA meetings and I interviewed with him for a Job at Henry Ford. He was always very nice to me, always busy in many projects and sometimes hard to keep up with. Ed Gfeller

DM

David Myers posted:

So sorry for your families loss. Thinking of you all.

October 6 at 2:46 PM

VJ

Valerie Jihnskn posted:

Dr. Blumer will be missed by many. He was a kind and gentle soul who was always a joy to be around. My husband and I spent many an enjoyable evening in the company of he and his lovely wife Beverly. A friend of ours for over 30 years. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family. May he rest in peace.

October 6 at 1:38 PM



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SB

Susan Baker posted:

I'm sorry I only got to meet him once. From reading the messages his friends and family have posted, I can tell I missed out on knowing a wonderful man. My thoughts are with his loving family and especially Beverly.

October 6 at 5:14 AM

DH

Dave Hilliard posted:

I feel very fortunate and glad to have known Dr. Blumer. Dieter was such a regular guy around the house, always up for conversation particularly around the time his book Psychiatric aspects of epilepsy was released. I still have my signed copy. Dieter, more than anyone, gave me an appreciation for Classical music.....and Van Gogh. Dieter was a Man with a twinkle in his eye and a curious nature who will be missed by all.

October 6 at 5:10 AM

PT

Patricia Tunnell posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

October 6 at 3:07 AM

SS

Szondi-Institute Zürich, Switzerland posted:

We are very sorry to learn that our precious colleague Dietrich Blumer passed away. Although it is a long while ago, that we have last met, we will remember him as an open-minded and committed researcher and colleague, who shared with us his genuine interest for the affective phenomena of the neurobehavioral disorder of epilepsy. Please accept our condolences. Our hearts go out to you in your time of sorrow.

October 3 at 2:20 PM



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Bob Maebe On Behalf Of Isa posted:

The International Szondi Association commemorates the lasting participation of Professor Blumer as an excellent speaker and chairman of its congresses and as its past president. Professor Blumer contributed greatly to the recognition of epilepsy in the field of psychiatry and to the spread and clinical application of Leopold Szondi's thinking in mental health. We offer his wife, who remained on his side for very long demanding years during his prolonged suffering, our sincere appreciation and our deep compassion and sympathy.

October 2 at 8:52 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dietrich by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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