



A. Martin Lerner,
M.D., P.C., M.A.C.P.

We are sad to announce the recent passing of A. Martin Lerner, MD, PC, MACP, on October 5, 2015 from lung cancer. He was 86. Dr. Lerner was a pioneer in researching the role of herpes viruses in ME/CFS and in treating ME/CFS with antivirals over the last 3 decades. His work inspired others and improved the health of many patients. What is further remarkable is that his work with ME/CFS was but one part of his many professional accomplishments. Up until the time of his death, Dr. Lerner remained active, seeing patients and, throughout 2014, helping to co-author the Institute of Medicine report developing evidence-based clinical diagnostic criteria.

Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, Dr. Lerner received his medical degree from the Washington University School of Medicine and completed his residency in Internal Medicine with Harvard Medical services at Boston City Hospital and Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, Mo. He spent two years with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Unit and then an additional three years conducting research under Dr. Maxwell Finland at Harvard.

Subsequently, he joined Wayne State University, becoming its first Chief of Infectious Disease and eventually rising to the rank of Professor of Medicine. Most of the infectious diseases physicians practicing in the Detroit Metropolitan area trained in the program that he started at Wayne State University. He was also a recipient of millions of dollars in NIAID and later NINDS research and training grants. He carried out landmark studies in the pathogenesis of coxsackievirus myocarditis and was one of a handful of clinical investigators in the novel field of antiviral chemotherapy in the 1960's and 1970s well before the advent of the HIV era. He was a world authority on herpes simplex virus encephalitis and had written chapters in the Harrison's textbook of Medicine in the past.

After he became ill with ME/CFS in 1988, Dr. Lerner dedicated his experience, knowledge, and talent towards understanding this medical condition better. Among other achievements, he received five patents related to ME/CFS and was honored in 2010 with the Heart Award by Mothers Against Myalgic Encephalomyelitis for his persistent efforts.

Throughout his life, he was active in the medical community. From 1990-1994, he served as Governor of the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and in 2001, became a Master of the ACP. He was also an elected member of the American College for Clinical Investigation and the American Association of Physicians.

Dr. Lerner is survived by his wife, Lueva; sons Joshua (Susan) and Joel (Shannon) Lerner; daughter Elizabeth (Ben) Hetzer; and several grandchildren.