

WE KNEW YOU WHEN

William Marchl: The Doctor of Feelings

“It’s good to say the things we mean. Of all we’ve seen and heard and felt for and wished and knelt for.... It’s good to talk, don’t you think?” asks X the Owl, in episode 15 of the beloved children’s show *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*.

“Sure,” answers **William Marchl** (MD ’64, Res ’67), smiling from under his dark-rimmed glasses in the 1968 *Neighborhood of Make-Believe*.



Marchl

His answer wasn’t meant to be make believe, though. For Marchl—who provided lessons on physical and emotional health to a vast cast of puppet-characters during his appearances as the Doctor of Feelings in *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*—the role allowed him to reach real children worldwide.

Marchl died in 2020 at the age of 82; he spent much of his career practicing psychiatry in Pittsburgh. But his practice transcended the city and time. On the show, he helps characters with complexities like dealing with

embarrassment, developing friendships and trying to understand dreams. His cameos are earnest, skillful and profoundly kind.

“My husband was the most gentle person you could have ever spoken with,” recalls Mary Anne Marchl, who met her husband at Pitt-Johnstown, where they were both undergraduates.

For his U.S. Public Health Service assignment, Marchl was a staff psychiatrist for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons in Denver, where he worked with adolescents. He later served as director of Head Start Child Development Center, director of the preadolescent inpatient unit at St. Francis Hospital, medical director of Craig House-Technoma, and as a consultant at the Speech Clinic at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh as well as at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind and the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. He maintained a private practice in Shadyside. —Rachel Mennies



COURTESY FRED ROGERS PRODUCTIONS

OBITUARY

JACK PARADISE

SEPT. 1, 1925—DEC. 20, 2021

The intern watches intently as the attending pediatrician prepares to perform an earwax removal procedure. The physician, Jack Paradise, instructs the child’s parent to have the youngster lie down. Then the doctor pulls out a custom otoscope head—which he invented and named, appropriately enough, the Paradise. The device combines a magnifying glass and a small loop for wax removal.

John Williams, the intern, marvels at the ease of the ensuing procedure: “He made it look effortless and with minimal discomfort for the child. I thought to myself, ‘That’s the gold. That’s my standard.’”

Throughout Williams’ internship at UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh (1994-1995), he says he learned much by observing Paradise, a Pitt professor of pediatrics and of otolaryngology.

“He was a model of patience and just a marvelous clinical teacher,” recalls Williams, who today is professor of pediatrics and of microbiology and molecular genetics at Pitt and director, Institute for Infection, Inflammation, and Immunity in Children. “He taught me how to do ear examinations and remove ear wax,” which, says Williams, “sounds simple but is actually difficult to do without tormenting the child.”

Patient care and teaching were just two aspects of an internationally renowned career in pediatrics for Paradise, who—at 96—died peacefully in his home last December.

When he joined Pitt’s faculty in 1970 and became director of the Children’s Hospital outpatient department, he began

decades-long studies—first examining a question he encountered during his practice: Did severe throat infections lead to future illness and necessitate tonsillectomies or adenoidectomies? Paradise’s results, finding no need for such widespread operations, led to a nearly 80 percent reduction in pediatric tonsillectomies nationally.

Paradise then undertook another study—whether tympanostomy-tube placement was necessary in children with persistent ear infections involving fluid accumulation. Those ear tubes had been used with the intention of preventing impairments in speech, cognitive and psychosocial development. But Paradise found no significant differences between ear-tube recipients and nonrecipients, prompting pediatric associations to recommend alternative interventions.

After his 2006 retirement, Paradise remained active in three studies: use of antibiotics in children with acute ear infections, length of therapy for that condition and use of tympanostomy tubes when that condition recurred. All were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, most recently in May 2021.

“A lot of our current trainees are benefiting from his impact,” notes Williams. “He is a big part of our history here in Pittsburgh and in pediatrics.”

—Marty Levine

Adapted from the University Times,
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Paradise

IN

'50s

GEORGE GILMORE, MD '52
FEB. 4, 2022

THOMAS GUSTIN, MD '59
JAN. 13, 2022

ROBERT HORSCH, MD '59
APRIL 19, 2022

MARTIN JONES, MD '55
DEC. 17, 2021

GEORGE MCCOLLUM, MD '57
FEB. 19, 2022

DONALD MEISTER, MD '54
APRIL 13, 2022

DAVID SCHAUB, MD '53
APRIL 10, 2022

HAROLD THOMAS JR., MD '54
MARCH 9, 2022

THE FORCE IS WITH HER MELINA KIBBE

BY MICHAEL AUBELE

Katharine McGinagle watches the auction's emcee waive a lighted wand around as he addresses the crowd, and her 5-year-old comes to mind. "Wow, if my son could have a lightsaber like that one—" McGinagle whispers to her friend. "It's just like Luke Skywalker's!"

The two women, both surgery professors at the University of North Carolina, chuckle at the thought. Then, as the gala benefit nears its end, McGinagle's friend bids on an item and says, "I'll double it if I can have that lightsaber for her son."

It was a few years ago that Melina Kibbe (Res '02) paid for that lightsaber. The proceeds for the 2019 gala helped fund a scholarship for students pursuing vascular surgery. And the lightsaber knighted a young Jedi.

In fall 2021, Kibbe left UNC, where she was surgery department chair, to become the 17th dean of the University of Virginia School

of Medicine. She is also chief health affairs officer for UVA Health.

The auction bid wasn't out of character for Kibbe, says McGinagle, who points out that Kibbe's interest in supporting others as they pursue their dreams sets her apart from the pack.

"She fundamentally cares for and finds pride in the successes of the people she leads."

Kibbe looks back fondly at her time in Pittsburgh, where she spent eight years (1994-2002) completing her residency and research fellowship and where she trained with the likes of Edith Tzeng, UPMC Professor of Surgery, and Timothy Billiar, chair and the George Vance Foster Professor. Even as dean at UVA, she still maintains a clinical practice and NIH-funded research portfolio for developing novel therapies for patients with vascular disease (including nitric oxide therapies). She holds 13 patents or provisional patents. In 2009, President Obama recognized her with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. She's past president of the Association for Academic Surgery and the Association of VA Surgeons and is editor-in-chief of the journal JAMA

Surgery.

Kibbe's captaining tendencies surfaced early on. She recalls organizing dodge ball and Marco Polo games as a kid. "I was always leading groups of people," she says with a laugh. Later as a young professional at Pitt and UPMC, she took it upon herself to organize resident rotation schedules and work with trainees and faculty to make sure everyone's needs were addressed.

Becoming a med school dean became a career aspiration for Kibbe. What better way to help young people as they strive to become the best doctors they can be?

Allan Tsung (Res '08) got to know Kibbe during their residencies here. In June, he joined her at UVA—leaving Ohio State's College of Medicine, where he was chief of the surgical oncology division—to become UVA's chair of surgery.

Tsung says he welcomed the opportunity to associate professionally with Kibbe again, in part because of her extraordinary capacities as a surgeon-scientist. Generally, he says, surgeon-scientists excel more in either research or clinical practice, but Kibbe "straddles both realms well." And she leads by example, he notes.

When Kibbe became UNC's surgery chair in 2016, she recognized that her stature had national ramifications: Only about 6 percent of chairs of surgery at U.S. medical schools are women. About 18 percent of med school deans are women.

She hopes the route she's taken will make leadership paths in medicine seem less daunting to women:

"You can't be what you can't see." ■

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



Kibbe is dean at the University of Virginia and editor in chief of JAMA Surgery.

MEMORIAM

ROBERT URBAN, MD '56
JAN. 23, 2022

JOHN WARD, MD '57
FEB. 17, 2022

A. LEONARD ZIMMERMAN, MD '58
JAN. 13, 2022

'60s
RONALD AMALONG, MD '61
FEB. 20, 2022

BARRY BERKEY, MD '61
APRIL 12, 2022

JAMES GARRETTSON, MD '65
DEC. 18, 2021

JAMES HOUSTON, MD '62
MARCH 4, 2022

DAVID KRAUS, MD '65
APRIL 7, 2022

STANLEY RABINOWITZ, MD '66
JAN. 1, 2022

JANET TITUS, MD '67
DEC. 9, 2021

'70s
MICHAEL MALLINGER, MD '74
APRIL 23, 2022

LAWRENCE NELSON, MD '70
APRIL 15, 2022

'90s
ERIN SABO, MD '90
FEB. 12, 2022

'10s
ALICIA SAUNDERS, MD '10
DEC. 13, 2021