

## *A Tribute to Franklin Shuler, MD, PhD, CIME (1967-2021)*

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In healthcare, there are many ways to measure the impact of someone’s career. You might look at a person’s credentials, awards, or research. Quantitative work and accolades are impressive and rightfully admired; however, occasionally a professional comes along whose reach is so broad, and their impact on others so profound, that you must look at their whole being to fully understand how special they are. For these people, medicine is a calling. Their life is a testament to dedication, compassion, and service to others.

Dr. Frank Shuler was this person. He was the first student to graduate from West Virginia School of Medicine with an M.D. and Ph. D. with honors in 1996. He went on to residency at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center from 1996-2001. Throughout his career, he worked at hospitals in both Tennessee and West Virginia, and his expertise was in Orthopedic trauma and surgery.

Dr. Shuler’s first publication was in 1998 called, “A Composite Regulatory Element in the First Intron of the Estrogen-Responsive Very Low-Density Apolipoprotein II Gene.” He went on to have at least 109 publications throughout his life. For 11 years

straight, he had at least one, and often multiple, publications each year. He had 91 presentations accepted.

Most of his research projects were on genetics and various topics within the orthopedic department. He received countless awards that included Meaningful Use Stage 1 Certificate from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2011, Regional Top Doctor from Castle Connolly in 2014, and Excellence in Commitment Award in 2020. The Franklin D. Shuler, MD, Program Award was named after Dr. Shuler in the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Summit for the residency program with the most QI (quality improvement)/ PS (patient safety) projects at Summit. One of his latest patents included his Vitamin D dressing work.

Above all his accomplishments, Dr. Shuler most cherished his role as a father. His love for his kids, Madison and David John, was vibrant and immeasurable. He was a beloved physician, researcher, mentor, and friend. His acts of service included giving interviews with WSAZ, reviewing and editing different medical journals, being a member of many committees and boards, and acting as a mentor

to numerous medical students and residents.

He valued impacting the lives of those around him, whether it be a medical student or a colleague, even when his own health was critical. Dr. Franklin Shuler passed away on January 5th, 2021, after a hard-fought, four-year battle with the rare autoimmune disorder, HLH. He left a prominent mark in the world of medicine and research and will be forever missed by many. His legacy will inspire all who knew him. "The loss is immeasurable but so is the love left behind."

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