

to review my novice fellowship and grant applications. Even after I have left NYU, he continued to maintain contact, and provide valuable advice and perspective, during my time at Henry Ford and currently at the NIH. It was always comforting to know he was there, and I will miss his energy, insight, and humanism." Patrick Burnett remarked, "Irwin Freedberg liked people; he liked residents; he liked to be the guy who could help you get where you want to go. He had a father's love for those he trained and for those whose career he guided." Sumayah Jamal remembered, "He saw to it that I always had protected time so that I could develop my research. He helped me with all of my papers and grants and was always happy to hear about my triumphs, no matter how small." Joanne Latkowski noted that "Dr. Freedberg was indefatigable. When I would leave the lab at 11 p.m., feeling sorry for myself after working a twelve-hour day, I could not help noticing the light on inside Dr. Freedberg's office, with his hunched silhouette at his desk — still hard at work. In this, as in all things, he was my mentor and my inspiration." Cindy Loomis noted, "Irwin was not only interested in our academic achievements, but also in our achievements in life — Irwin was almost as excited as I was when my kids were born." Pam Cowin said, "He always kept an open-door policy. You could see him at any time with anything that was bothering you, and even if he couldn't solve the problem, you left feeling better. He read my first grant and my first manuscript (as he put it, 843 times, once for every amino acid in the cadherin sequence) and was a wonderful copy editor and teacher. He really loved research and the academic enterprise."

David Polsky put it well: "A medical school professor once told his first-year students that only 50% of what he was teaching them would be true in 20 years; the only problem was that he didn't know which 50% it would be. Irwin Freedberg could see the future, even if he didn't know all the details. Irwin knew that the future of medicine depended upon the creation of new

knowledge and its dissemination. Irwin was a champion of the physician-scientist and worked hard to help junior investigators get a start in their chosen fields of investigation. During his tenure as the Chair of Dermatology at NYU, Irwin formalized the training of dermatologist-scientists under the Sulzberger Scholars Program, named after a former chairman, Marion Sulzberger. A unique program among dermatology residencies, this program allows a third-year resident to get a head start on their postdoctoral fellowship by relieving them of 90% of their clinical responsibilities in order to begin their research projects. Furthermore, Irwin appreciated that the New York City scientific community was rich with opportunities, so he allowed residents to pursue their research at any of the

local medical schools in the New York City area, not just NYU. Irwin's interest did not stop with offering these training opportunities. He was also interested in reviewing grants and manuscripts written by his trainees, and he consistently provided excellent editorial feedback to improve whatever crossed his desk. Irwin was a tireless worker, involved in nearly all facets of dermatology from education and training to clinical practice, government and academic affairs. He was an inspiring leader with a genuine concern for the future of the specialty. *He may not have known exactly what the future would look like, but he knew how to get us there* (italics mine). I think that is a fitting description of Irwin Freedberg, who was and continues to be an inspiration to all of us. Irwin, we will miss you dearly.

Remembering Irwin Freedberg

The following comments were originally published on the American Dermatological Association listserv in July 2005 and are republished here with permission from the authors and the Association.

Journal of Investigative Dermatology (2006) **126**, 519–520. doi:10.1038/sj.jid.5700215

We all are aware of Irwin's outstanding accomplishments as a clinician, teacher, investigator, and dedicated public servant. I wish to call attention to one of Irwin's extraordinary investigative contributions which may not be so well known and which might get lost among his many other legacies. We are living in the exciting age of molecular biology, whose revelations could scarcely have been imagined forty years ago. But it was about that time that Irwin Freedberg began his studies on the biochemistry of hair keratins, which he recognized were a family of different proteins which he foresaw could be individually characterized at the molecular level.

It is a historical fact that one of the most distinguished dermatologists of the last half of the twentieth century was a prescient pioneer in this new and promising field for investigating the structure and function of the integument at the molecular level. Irwin stands among the tallest who elevated dermatology to

the preeminent position which it now enjoys in the medical hierarchy.

—Albert M. Kligman

Irwin was one of the most respected academic dermatologists of his times and, on a personal level, invariably unassuming and approachable.

—Malcolm W. Greaves

There was no harder worker than Irwin, both at work and at play, and no one more devoted to his family and his friends. At work or play everything was a challenge which he conquered.

—John Strauss

His example of dedication, mentoring and altruism has been a source of inspiration for me and I am sure many others.

—Kevin Cooper

I first met Irwin when I saw him as a patient when I was a medical student. In the nearly 3 decades that followed

he always seemed to just know and be interested in my career, my family and things that connected us. Perhaps this is the greatest gift he was trying to teach.

—Michael Bigby

Irwin was a great man...A father to generations of dermatologists and a great leader of our specialty.

—Guy Webster

He alone got dermatologic surgeons malpractice coverage years ago for liposuction in New York.

—Rhoda S. Narins

I recall my first meeting with Irwin. I was giving him the oral exam on clinical dermatology for the American Board. I had 15 Kodachromes of rare and difficult cases which each candidate was to discuss for 13 minutes. With Irwin I never got past the first slide because he completely enthralled me with his lucid and detailed discussion of that first patient.

—Walter Shelley

I will always remember Irwin at the Gordon conferences as a thoughtful scientist who was dedicated to academic dermatology and not afraid to mentor young women as well as young men.

—Madeleine Duvic

As a chairman, he had confidence in his staff, and he was intensely interested in cultivating young investigators.

—Tung-Tien Sun

I'm convinced that Irwin knew nearly all of us including our strengths and weaknesses. No one loved dermatology more or gave more of himself to it.

—C. William Hanke

Irwin Freedberg was a model to us all as a physician, an educator and a dear friend and colleague.

—Steve Webster

What remains forever is my gratitude to Irwin for his leadership and his encouragement of our (myself and my wife's) pursuit of dermatology. He also taught me to revere the scientific and questioning approach to all aspects of dermatology, which we still apply

daily to all our endeavors.

—Robert A. Weiss

It is truly a sad time to lose one of the giants in our field who also was a real "mensch."

—Gary Monheit

One of the best, a true Gentleman, always good for a hug.

—Bernett Johnson

Only a few months ago (at the AAD meeting in New Orleans), when receiving a Dermatology Foundation Lifetime Service Award he seized the moment to say, "forgive me for making this a 'bully pulpit,' but we *must* lead the next generation of residents into professional lives that include a commitment to teaching, a pledge to service." His was a life of devotion to science, to medicine, to students, to colleagues, to family.

—Steve Cohen

His abiding enthusiasm, encouragement, and support had an enormous impact on my professional development.

—Doug Lowy

My fondest memories of Irwin will be those times that he and I would bump into each other during our solitary excursions around the poster exhibits during the quiet times at the Academy or SID meetings. He would be studiously moving from poster to poster, frequently dictating follow-up notes to himself. Always the scholar, always the

one looking for kernels of new information that he might nurture into useful new paradigms for his patients, his colleagues, and his beloved department.

—Richard D. Sontheimer

Irwin's articles made the point that the scientific method was being applied to the study of skin disease and that this would lead to better understanding of pathophysiology and in time to rational therapies.

—James J. Leyden

I will miss Irwin's wisdom and warm personality greatly.

—Lee Nesbit

Irwin was an instrumental guide and mentor for many of us, before the days when mentorship had prestige and recognition.

—Stephanie Pincus

Irwin, you were and you will be the role model that several of us will emulate.

—Luis Diaz

I'll remember Irwin Freedberg for the following quote: "I believe if you think someone is doing something good, you should tell them." He left us knowing in his heart he had advanced the field of dermatology, given back education and time to the specialty, engaged in creative and innovative thought, and left a generation of dermatologists who are better because of him.

—Mark V. Dahl

Irwin Freedberg: "Grandpa" to Generations of Dermatologists

Gerald S. Lazarus¹

Journal of Investigative Dermatology (2006) 126, 520–521. doi:10.1038/sj.jid.5700105

Irwin Freedberg was a loving grandpa to his trainees. His own contributions to epithelial biology were significant, but far more profound was his encourage-

ment and mentorship of multiple generations of young academic dermatologists and skin researchers. He was also very committed to the future practi-

¹Department of Dermatology, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Correspondence: Dr. Gerald S. Lazarus, Department of Dermatology, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, 4940 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21224, USA. Email: lazaruspumc@hotmail.com