
IN MEMORIAM

In Memoriam: Dr. Otto Michael Lilien

Dr. Otto Michael Lilien, 1977 President of the Northeastern Section of the AUA and former Chair of the Department of Urology at Upstate Medical Center Syracuse, passed away from the painful complications of Parkinson's disease on April 20, 2007. His main research interest was renal physiology, shown by his many articles in the *Journal of Urology* and other national and international research publications. His career exemplifies Sir William Osler's description of "The Ideal Physician" involved in research, teaching, and patient care.

Using time-lapse photography during segmental thawing of frozen rat kidneys, Dr. Lilien proved the counter-current theory of renal physiology. While studying kidney specimens, he became aware of microscopic and macroscopic calcifications in fat surrounding the renal pelvis in laboratory animals and humans. Dr. Lilien hypothesized that these calcifications migrated into the renal pelvis and were the nidus for calculus formation.

Mike and I were friends, colleagues, collaborators, and confidants. For me, our friendship was inspiring and often humbling. As a urological surgeon, Mike's expertise exceeded expected standards of care. For example, in 1980 the investigative protocol for treatment of carcinoma of the testis recommended watchful waiting if fewer than five retroperitoneal nodes were positive for cancer. In 1981, my son Steve had an embryonal cell carcinoma of the testis with one positive node, which in Mike's judgment indicated disseminated disease. My son received 3 months of chemotherapy. He subsequently married and fathered two healthy children. Twenty-six years later, he is a practicing anesthesiologist who leads a normal life.

A true Renaissance man, Mike was a philosopher, teacher, scholar, prize-winning metal sculptor, humanitarian, negotiator, airplane pilot, tennis player, humorist, and family man. He is survived by his wife Suzanne, three stepchildren, seven children, and many friends, colleagues, and former residents.

When my wife and I were writing *UROLOGISTS OF TWO NATIONS* for the Northeastern Section's 50th Anniversary, I asked Mike to send me a copy of his CV. At the top of the first page was a handwritten note, "Dear Bob – Hope this helps! Or do you want me to compose my own eulogy? Modesty forbids! Mike."

Excerpted from the Eulogy
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By Robert Meyer, MD

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