



FIRST FAMILY OF MEDICINE

Dr. Jessica Lewis was a special person, and I am honored to say that I knew her, worked with her, and did work for her—she will be missed greatly.

Deborah S. Small
Pittsburgh

I thoroughly enjoyed Edwin Kiester's article on Dr. Jack Myers. I graduated from Pitt med in 1975 and did a senior elective in computer medicine with Dr. Myers, Randy Miller, and Harry Pople. Randy was a fellow student; he convinced me to take the elective. I was rather intimidated at the thought of working one-on-one with Dr. Myers, but it turned out to be the highlight of my med school years. Dr. Myers must have mellowed some; as long as I was prepared with my presentations, he was fair and always encouraged us to "research our topics more." His letter of recommendation was influential in helping me obtain my residency.

The article was accurate and truly captured the aura of his teaching and research. His memory and diagnostic abilities were intimidating to everyone. The diagnostic computer program that he developed, which eventually became QMR, basically put his vast medical knowledge and clinical experience into a database. His clinical diagnostic skills will probably never be duplicated.

I also had the opportunity to witness his expertise in classical music.

I am currently working in the ambulatory care clinic at the James Haley VA in Tampa, after having tossed in the towel from private practice after 16 years and a five-year trial at a staff model HMO. Pitt med prepared me incredibly well for my residency. Dr. Myers preached about paying attention to details, being prompt, and being humble—traits I always attempt to maintain. Unfortunately, with the high volume of demands on primary care physicians and the dumbing down of medicine by HMOs, I'm afraid these goals are almost impossible to attain, except at great personal expense.

I look forward to reading future articles by Mr. Kiester.

Douglas A. Saslow (MD '75)
Tampa, Fla.

It has been more than 40 years since I completed my internal medicine residency under the tutelage and teaching of Dr. Jack Myers, one of the finest bedside diagnosticians of the last century. Hungry to learn more, I repeated my first-year residency just so I could spend more time with the ward service and Dr. Myers. I looked forward to the "Morning Reports" and the medical rounds.

Jack Myers was a teacher and superb medical role model in an era when history-taking and

physical diagnosis were extremely important. As a diagnostician, Myers had few equals, if any.

He was a friend to every medical house officer and could always be approached for advice on problems outside of medicine. I know from personal experience his caring qualities.

He inspired an entire generation of men and women to become better, caring physicians. Even now, in my medical practice, when faced with a tough medical diagnosis or decision, I often ask myself, *What would Jack do?*

Stanley P. Silverblatt (MD '57, Res '61)
Hallandale, Fla.

We gladly receive photos and letters (which we may edit for length, style, and clarity).

Pitt Med
400 Craig Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-624-4152
Fax: 412-624-1021
E-mail: medmag@pitt.edu
<http://www.health.pitt.edu/pittmed>

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