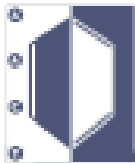


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Michael W. Shannon, MD, MPH, FAACT, FACMT, FACEP, FAAP 1953- 2009



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The Toxicology community lost one of its most esteemed and valued educators when AACT member Michael W. Shannon died suddenly on March 10, 2009. He was 55 years old.

Pediatric Emergency Medicine- Medical Toxicology Fellowship. He remained there and began his meteoric rise in academic medicine, becoming the first African-American full Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. He was Board-Certified in four ABMS specialties: Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Medical Toxicology.

Dr. Shannon was a former President of the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT), and he was instrumental in effecting the recent labeling changes to pediatric cough and cold medications. He testified before the Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C., on the unproven value of cold medicines for children. His research interests included substance abuse and environmental health, as well as drug interactions.

AACT members will recall that Dr. Shannon was a regular lecturer at the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology (NACCT) meetings each year, sharing his wisdom and broad breadth of toxicologic knowledge with the entire toxicology community. He was instrumental in training and educating countless physicians in toxicology and in pediatrics.

His loss is mourned by all those who had the privilege of knowing him or working with him. Children's Hospital CEO Dr. James Mandell was quoted in the March 11, 2009 Boston Globe as saying: "We are nothing short of devastated by this news and this incredible loss," His message to the staff of the hospital also noted that "Michael was an incredibly personable, highly

Dr. Shannon was a full professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and was considered the preeminent pediatric toxicologist in the world, according to Dr. Gary Fleisher, chairman of medicine at Children's Hospital, Boston. He was a prolific writer, having published more than 50 peer-reviewed articles in major scientific journals. He was lead editor of one of the authoritative texts of medical Toxicology, *Haddad, and Winchester's Clinical Management of Poisoning and Drug Overdose, 4th Edition*, published in 2007. He was also Medical Editor-in-Chief of *ToxED*, and Board Co-Chair of that publication.

Dr. Shannon is survived by his loving wife Elaine, and their two children: a son, Evan, 21, and daughter, Lila, 20; both students at Stanford University.

Dr. Shannon received his undergraduate degree from Washington University, St. Louis, MO, and his MD from Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, NC. He served as chief resident in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital in Boston, part of Harvard Medical School, where he then completed a combined

Editor

Michael G. Holland, MD
hollandm@upstate.edu

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AACT Administrative Office
777 East Park Drive
PO Box 8820
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820
(717) 558-7847 phone
(717) 558-7841 fax
www.clintox.org

Executive Director

Susie Wilson
swilson@pamedsoc.org

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mgreenbe@drexelmed.edu

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talented clinician, researcher, and person." During his long tenure at Children's Hospital, he had served as chief of the Division of Emergency Medicine, chief of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, director of the Center for Biopreparedness, and associate chief of the Pediatric Environmental Health Center. He was also the Director of the Lead and Toxicology Clinic at The Children's Hospital.

In addition to his outstanding medical and academic career, he served his community as well. Shannon was on the boards of several local charities and was active at his church, First Parish in Brookline, MA., where he organized a youth group, and helped them with challenges of growing up with the social pressure faced by modern youths.

One of Dr. Shannon's favorite activities was modern dancing. He began dancing when he was an undergraduate at Washington University in St. Louis more than 30 years ago and continued while in medical school at Duke. He danced professionally for several years, where he met his wife, Elaine, also a dancer. He also appeared each year in a local production. He dedicated his most recent performance in Boston's "Urban Nutcracker" to "Elaine, the love of my life." A story about how Michael juggled his dancing career with his duties as a physician, professor, husband and father was a featured article in the Boston Globe in 2001.

The American Academy of Clinical Toxicology mourns the loss of one of its favorite sons. He served the Academy and the greater toxicology community tirelessly in his illustrious career. The Academy Board of Trustees will meet in special session to create an appropriate memorial award in his honor. The entire Academy wishes to express its heartfelt sorrow to his wife Elaine and their children Evan and Lila for their tragic loss.

Visiting hours are Friday March 13, 2009 from 4-8pm at Bell-O'Dea funeral home, 376 Washington St, Brookline, MA. Funeral services are to be held at 1pm on Saturday March 14, 2009 at the First Parish Church, Brookline, MA. Graveside services are private.

For those wishing to celebrate Michael Shannon's life, please consider making a contribution to one of the following charities in his honor:

Kids Clothes Club
120 Cypress Street
Brookline, MA 02445

Barro Sinplomo
c/o Ellen Carno
16 Auburndale, MA 02466

Dr Michael Shannon Fund for Dance
c/o Boston Dance Alliance, Attn: Ruth Bimberg
19 Clarendon St
Boston, MA 02116
www.bostondancealliance.org