

In Memoriam

David Byck, MD

(1960-2020)

I moved from Detroit, Michigan to Savannah, Georgia in December 1990 to take a job as director of medical education for Memorial Medical Center. This was my first senior-level position since completing my doctorate and I was both excited and nervous, very intent on establishing a good reputation and doing a good job for my new employer. You may be aware that there are a few differences between Detroit and Savannah. Savannah is in the South, for one thing, and has a history and culture much different than what I was used to growing up in the upper Midwest. Being the new guy and, particularly, being the new guy from up north was a little uncomfortable at first.



The first day on the job one of the first people I met was a young obstetrician/gynecologist by the name of David Byck. David greeted me with his big smile and warm handshake and said how glad they were to have me at the hospital. He filled me in on the who's who at the hospital and explained how the obstetrics/gynecology department was clearly the best department at the hospital, and also how the obstetricians were the leaders in medical education. Over the next eleven years, David and I had many opportunities to work together on the medical education program and on development of Memorial Medical Center (now Memorial Health University Medical Center) as a key teaching hospital in the Southeast. David was a leader and always a great advocate for all the residents and medical students at Memorial. He was a medical educator at heart and was very enthusiastic about the development of the Mercer University School of Medicine campus in the mid-1990s. He always had ideas for making the education program better and followed up by putting ideas into practice.

I left Memorial in 2001 and continued my medical education career back in Ann Arbor and Detroit. In 2014, I had the good fortune to join HCA Healthcare as Vice President for Graduate Medical Education with responsibility for all of HCA Healthcare's GME programs across the country. A few years later, HCA Healthcare had the opportunity to add Memorial Health to our family of hospitals. One of the first people I met on returning to Memorial was David Byck. David was now a senior leader at Memorial, including serving as the leader for University Physicians practice. It was very good to see David and many other friends and colleagues at Memorial, and I think these relationships were helpful in building trust that HCA Healthcare was committed to maintaining and supporting the residency programs and the Mercer University School of Medicine campus.

David continued to be a key leader in medical education, serving as program director of the obstetrics/gynecology residency. He never did anything in medical education that did not command his full attention and intellect, including our recent efforts to establish a new maternal fetal medicine fellowship at Memorial. Last year, David joined the Editorial Board of the *HCA Healthcare Journal of Medicine* and has played a significant role in the development and success of this new journal. We are all deeply saddened by his passing and will greatly miss his good advice, suggestions and his friendly persuasive arguments. I personally will miss him as a colleague and friend over the last thirty years. He was a true gentleman and scholar, a great man.

Bruce Deighton, PhD
Editor-in-Chief