



Dr. Murray Samuel Flaster

May 17, 2020

Dr. Murray Samuel Flaster (Big Mur) died on Sunday, May 17, 2020 (Hebrew date: 23 Iyar 5780) at his family home in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He succumbed to cancer at 68 after several months of fighting alongside his wife and family.

Dr. Flaster was born in Bronx, NY and raised by his immigrant parents Jean and Charlie Flaster. He grew up in a traditional Jewish home with his sister Eva and cousin Sam. He attended Bronx School of Science where he excelled academically and fell in love with the hard sciences. Dr. Flaster went on to pursue his undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Biology at the City College of New York. He then earned a PH.D. in Biochemistry at the Columbia University in the City of New York. There he met Linda Barmat, the love of his life. They married and began their family on 113th St. in Morningside Heights. Two children later, Linda and Murray moved to Hollywood, FL, where he embarked upon an accelerated MD program at the University of Miami. He continued onwards to a residency program in Neurology and had three more children in Florida.

Linda, Murray and their five children relocated to Phoenix, AZ. where he became the Director of the Acute Stroke Service at the Barrow Neurological Institute. He had several subsequent professorships at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Loyola University in Chicago and finished his

career at Lancaster General Hospital proudly establishing a new regional stroke service.

Dr. Flaster enjoyed reading non-fiction, teaching and spending time with his six children and eight grandbabies. He loved going for long walks with his wife, flying Piper Cherokee airplanes and singing folk songs. Murray always had time to answer questions big or small from fellow physicians, patients and his family. He will be remembered as a devoted father, loving husband and passionate doctor who cared endlessly for his patients.

He is survived by his wife Linda, children Harry, Josh, Jake, Charlie, Mike and Suzy and his grandchildren, Miya, Itamar, Kerem, Anaelle, Oze, Lielle, Rafael and Yonatan. He will be laid to rest in a private ceremony on May 18th. The family will be sitting Shiva in Israel. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Lancaster County Food Hub, 812 N. Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Tribute Wall

VG

“ I am coming up on a 9 year anniversary of surviving a stroke at only 28 years old. I looked for Dr Flaster to testify that I’m doing well and thriving. He was such a God send to me, and through his care I walked out of icu in only 5 days. Even though I missed saying this in person on earth, I wanted to reach out to his loved ones and say thank you. I know he traveled a lot but I’m so grateful for his care, his humor, and that he knew the “Guy” upstairs was for me.

Victoria G - October 29, 2025 at 07:46 AM

TM

“ Dr. Flaster will always be a special person. He was the only doctor who really listened to me and respected me as a health care professional. I was so ill and felt such pain from my condition. He got me on track with the right professionals at Mayo. I am still walking today(20 years later). Dr. Flaster may you continue to rest in peace.

Terri Massman - August 31, 2025 at 02:24 PM



“ Dr. Murray Samuel Flaster

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

EF

“ I just came across this today. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Flaster during his Las Vegas tenure. It was always a joy discussing patients or just having a meal with him. I have missed working with him and my thoughts are with his family.

Eric F - February 03, 2021 at 12:33 PM

HA

“ Murray was my best friend at the Bronx High School of Science. I just learned of his passing today and I cried. Murray and I shared many experiences and adventures together. In 1968, we went to see Cream at Hunter College in New York. Without much effort, you could induce Murray to sing the Vanilla Fudge version of the Supremes' Keep Me Hanging On. His hand motions were memorable. Murray was really, really smart and he was always a very kind person. When my wife Tanya and I were in Arizona for a conference about a decade ago, we were lucky enough to spend an afternoon with Murray and to meet Linda for the first time. I recently found out that Murray had relocated to Lancaster and googled him with the hope that we could get together again since I live in the Washington, DC suburbs. When I looked, I learned of his passing. I am sorry that I will not see him again. Linda, you married a great guy and Tanya and I grieve with you and your family. May God keep and protect you. Howard and Tanya Adler.

Howard Adler - November 01, 2020 at 06:57 PM

DR

I was very saddened when I heard about Dr Flaster passing. I have worked with him at Loyola Medical Center. He was very knowledgeable, kind and compassionate. He always had time to talk and to listen. I am so sorry that he isn't there for his family and his patients.
RIP Dr Flaster.

Dee Radivojevic RN - December 04, 2020 at 07:39 PM

KA

“ Sorry this has taken so long to write. Dr. Flaster will be forever remembered by my son, his wife, and myself during our time of grief in February when my husband had a hemorrhagic stroke. We had a decision to make concerning my husband and he helped my son come to the conclusion that I had already made. He was so compassionate. Later, he came to the room on 7 Frederick to check to see how I was doing and after a short visit, he said he needed to leave. However, he turned around and said he'd just rather stay and talk for a few minutes. I would never have guessed that he himself had a medical issue. His time spent with us over a period of days will not be forgotten. He had such caring for my husband and my family. He made you feel as if you were a part of his family. He will be missed.



Kay Althouse - June 27, 2020 at 09:23 AM

MG

“ Dear Linda, Suzy and family:

Rachel and I are so saddened to hear of the passing of your husband/dad. I fondly remember him from hebrew school and your days in Chandler at synagogue.... You are a wonderful strong family and may his blessing be a memory for all..... Sincerely Marcia and Rachel Gur-Arie

Marcia Gur-Arie - June 08, 2020 at 01:32 PM

JB

“ All members of the Department of Neurology at Loyola University Chicago have been blessed with Dr. Flaster's clinical expertise, wisdom and compassion. His legacy will endure for current and future generations of colleagues and alumni.

Jose Biller - May 21, 2020 at 02:50 PM

SA

“ I worked with Dr Flaster at LGH. I was one of the chaplains who responded to stroke emergencies. I appreciated and respected Dr Flaster’s recognition of the emotional and spiritual health of his patients and his collaboration to meet family’s needs. He saved and changed many lives. His legacy is deep and wide. I am wishing you peace and comfort.

Sage - May 20, 2020 at 08:07 PM

FB

“ I would like to send my deepest sympathy to Dr. Flaster’s family. When I had my stroke I was so blessed to have Dr. Flaster at LGH when I arrived. He took good care of me while I was at the hospital, and then at my follow-up office visits he always took his time with me and answered my questions. He was a great man and will be missed.

*A Grateful Patient,
Frank Bleecher*

Frank Bleecher - May 20, 2020 at 06:28 PM

BF

“ My husband and I never knew a doctor quite like Dr. Flaster. We met him in July 2019 when Jack had a major stroke, and Dr. Flaster oversaw his care. He was clearly brilliant, and yet he was so personal, so humble, so comfortable with his patients and their families. He took a genuine and personal interest in my husband, and we were thankful to have him then and again in February of this year, when Jack had another stroke. He took his time and never rushed his visits, and he was determined to work through any question or problem until he, and we, fully understood the answer. We offer our sincere condolences to his family, his friends, his colleagues. He was an amazing, wonderful man and we grieve his loss with you.

Bunky and Jack Frey

Bunky Frey - May 20, 2020 at 04:51 PM

MD

“ Murray's expertise in stroke management will be sorely missed at LGH. He was an outstanding clinician, colleague, and resource for many of us. May he rest in eternal peace.

Meghan Dermody - May 20, 2020 at 11:55 AM

SL

“ The Flaster house in Ahwatukee still seems to radiate with excess energy and the legend of Murray's late night jogs around the neighborhood live on. Your Dad was an asset to our community and is being remembered and mourned. Love to you all,
Susan and Miles Laughlin

Susan Laughlin - May 20, 2020 at 10:34 AM

JM

“ Murray was an excellent physician and was always willing to help no matter what time of day he was needed. Amazed with his knowledge base. He will be missed.

James Medina - May 20, 2020 at 10:20 AM

JF

“ As a stroke victim , Dr. Flaster saved my life. He was a special man!!! He asked the right questions, ordered the correct tests and saw to my recovery. I loved the way he shuffled down the hall carrying his briefcase. We were very lucky to welcome Dr. Flaster to Lancaster to establish a new regional stroke service. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, his friends, his colleagues and his patients. Judy Farmer Fulton

Judy Farmer Fulton - May 20, 2020 at 09:40 AM

MM

“ Dr. Flaster was an excellent clinician and cared deeply for his patients. He is a great teacher, academician and will truly be missed. My sincere condolences to his family.

Mina Meesala - May 20, 2020 at 09:40 AM

MD

“ Dr. Flaster was always such a great patient advocate and his caring and compassion shined through in his interactions. He had such great knowledge and experience and we are grateful for the wisdom he passed on to all of us. He will be greatly missed

Melissa Dissinger - May 20, 2020 at 09:04 AM

TL

“ I only had the opportunity to know Dr. Flaster for a brief time while working at LGHP Neurology. But, it was entirely evident he was a "Patient's doctor". He cared so deeply for those in his care. I have read each of these memories and tributes and extend my deepest, most heartfelt sympathies to all who loved and admired this man. What a tremendous earthly loss for us all. Rest in peace, Dr. Flaster.
Tiffany Lantz

Tiffany Lantz - May 20, 2020 at 07:40 AM

CB

“ Murray Flaster was a gem. He took care of my wife through three strokes over several months, and came in to the hospital several times on his weekends off when he felt he needed to be there to oversee her care. He exuded an aura of knowledge and experience that was always a source of comfort, and was an example of characteristics that we should all aspire to. I will be forever great full for his efforts. My deepest sympathies to his family and coworkers.

Charles Bock - May 19, 2020 at 08:09 PM

SA

“ As one of Dr. Flaster's stroke patients, I will be eternally grateful for the new lease on life he and his team gave me a year and a half ago. When I was in the hospital he stopped by daily to see how I was and no matter how many patients he had he always made me feel as though I was the only patient. The program he set up at LGH will be his lasting legacy and for that Lancaster is truly blessed. He will be sorely missed.

Steve Aisenbrey - May 19, 2020 at 07:32 PM

MR

“ Murray was such an incredible leader in the hospital, health system, and the community. We appreciate his work as Division Chief, Stroke Medical Director, leader of our teams, teacher, EMS advocate, and community partner. He has truly advanced the health and well-being of our patients and has left us with such an advanced program. We will remember him and my condolences to his family.

Mike Ripchinski - May 19, 2020 at 07:19 PM

RF

“ I remember when we were recruiting Murray and discussed the differences for a Bronx native who had lived in other major cities like Chicago and Miami and was then considering moving to Lancaster. He assured me that he wanted to come here to build a stroke program and what a program he built! Murray was a kind, hard-working clinician who not only touched lives but saved them. He was beloved by patients, staff, and colleagues. The legacy he has left us will not be forgotten.

Ray Foley - May 19, 2020 at 03:53 PM

TO

“ Very sorry, I will miss Murray. Never rushed, always careful, always more than a few key 'points', I will miss his care, and counsel, and collegiality - a real help to me when caring for patients and their families.
Dr. Thomas Overholt

Thomas Overholt - May 19, 2020 at 03:48 PM

SS

“ One night only a year or two ago, Dr. Murray came to my wife's room after midnight. I suppose he had been working in the E.R. at LGH. My wife had been admitted for a stroke. Dr. Flaster looked tired, like he should have been in bed hours ago. My wife was not his patient and we had not asked for him. He showed up because, he said, he had "heard that I was needed." Frankly, I believe my wife got the very best neurologist in Lancaster that night. Her recovery was amazing. I will never forget him. And I'll bet he would say he was just doing his job.

Sam Spade - May 19, 2020 at 11:26 AM

RE

“ Rebeca lit a candle in memory of Dr. Murray
Samuel Flaster



rebeca - May 19, 2020 at 11:19 AM

CH

“ We will always remember Dr Flaster with fondness.
He saved my husband's life when he had a stroke.
He had a wonderful sense of humor.
He will be missed.

Charlene Heiserman - May 19, 2020 at 10:29 AM

CP

“ What a wonderful human being. I wish I had more time with him to listen to him teach and see him smile. 🙏

Christopher Peterson - May 19, 2020 at 09:04 AM

DC

“ Dr. Flaster has raised the bar for stroke care in Lancaster County to national best in class care. We are all better physicians and people for having spent time w/ Murray , his mentorship and devotion to our patients. My deepest sympathy to all family and friends.

Dr. Paul Conslato

Dr Paul Conslato - May 19, 2020 at 09:00 AM

RB

“ Incredibly sorry for you loss. Dr. Flaster was a one of a kind, compassionate individual who offered the highest quality of care to his patients. He spoke so highly of his family and was incredibly proud of his grand babies. We all referenced him as a “walking textbook”. Dr. Flaster was a wealth of knowledge and one of the most humble people I have ever met. He is greatly missed and our TNU will never be the same.

Rick Beverlin - May 19, 2020 at 08:01 AM

CL

“ Such a gentleman, scholar and mentor. He will truly be missed by many and I thank your family for sharing him with all of us in the Lancaster community. I’m very sorry for your loss, please know he spoke frequently and lovingly about each of you.

Chris Lohr - May 19, 2020 at 01:06 AM

LK

“ My condolences to the family. Dr. Flaster was a great man, physician, mentor and teacher. He was truly dedicated to his patients and his colleagues. He changed and touched so many lives.

Lyondra Kelley - May 18, 2020 at 11:56 PM

KA

“ God love this man who made a difference in a nurses everyday life. I admired and appreciated his love and skill for his skill and college’s. No matter who you were or where you were at in life, he still made you learn... xoxo

kaserogers - May 18, 2020 at 10:27 PM

CK

“ Very sorry for your loss. I was always impressed by his professionalism and compassion. A great man who left this life too early.

Chris Kager - May 18, 2020 at 09:45 PM

TM

“ I’m so terribly sorry for your loss. Know that what he was able to bring to Lancaster County over the past couple of years has changed the delivery of stroke care to his pts and to future pts in the education he provided to out team.
Great physician, but much more important great man who spoke of family frequently and beamed with pride telling us stories. He will be missed by all of us!
Tracey Mousley stroke program coordinator

Tracey Mousley - May 18, 2020 at 09:04 PM

CH

I am so very sorry for your loss. Dr. Flaster was such an amazing man/physician that taught me many things along the way. He worked tirelessly and put his heart and sole into his patients and work. He will be greatly missed. Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers

Corie Hynicker - May 18, 2020 at 09:18 PM

PR

“ I am truly sorry for the loss of Dr Flaster.. He was a wonderful person and great physician.

He and I would always share pictures of our grandchildren and stories of family. I will always cherish the time I had working with him. It was sort of my responsibility to keep or should I say try to keep him organized and to attend his meetings on time. Quite a challenge sometimes. 😊

I thank you his family for sharing this great man.

Love to all of you.

Pam Rineer ❤️

Pam Rineer - May 18, 2020 at 08:49 PM

BS

Murray was an amazing mentor, colleague, and friend. I always laughed when he would come into my office and say “this will only take 30s.” 30-60 minutes later, when we finally finished talking, I was wiser and generally in a better mood because of the laughs we just shared. To the family - it was obvious how much he loved all of you. He was so proud of his kids and grandkids and absolutely adored his wife, Linda. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy at LGH will live on always. Thanks for sharing him with us!!

Brad Stevens

Brad Stevens - May 19, 2020 at 07:48 AM

DK

“ My condolences to your family. I appreciated Murray's willingness to help us in the ED whether on call or not. He truly cared for his patients and we appreciated his expertise. Fran Kratz (Lancaster Emergency Associates)

Dr Kratz - May 18, 2020 at 08:47 PM