

March 30, 2020

The Montefiore-Einstein community is mourning the loss of renowned pediatric neurosurgeon Dr. James T. Goodrich.

Dr. Goodrich dedicated his life to saving children with complex neurological conditions. He was a pioneer in this field and developed a multi-stage approach for separating craniopagus twins who are fused at the brain and skull. In 2016, he famously led a team of 40 doctors in a 27-hour procedure to separate the McDonald twins, Jadon and Anias. Throughout his distinguished career he became known as the world's leading expert on this lifesaving procedure. He was consulted on hundreds of cases, and he routinely traveled the world sharing his vast knowledge and expertise with colleagues.

Originally from Oregon, Dr. Goodrich served as a Marine during the Vietnam war, during which time he decided his next step would be to pursue a medical career. Not only was he an elite surgeon, over the years he was a generous mentor and teacher who shared his craft with many young surgeons who wanted to follow in his footsteps.

Dr. Goodrich was a humble and truly caring man. He did not crave the limelight and was beloved by his colleagues and staff: every year he baked holiday cookies and hand-delivered them to the nurses at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore.

Outside of his work, he was also known for his passion for historical artifacts, travel and surfing.

Dr. Goodrich spent more than 30 years at Montefiore Einstein and was the Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Montefiore and Professor of Clinical Neurological Surgery, Pediatrics, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

"Dr. Goodrich was a beacon of our institution and he will be truly missed," said Montefiore Medicine CEO, Dr. Philip O. Ozuah. "His expertise and ability were second only to his kind heart and manner. Dr. Goodrich was admired by his Montefiore Einstein colleagues and adored by his patients and Montefiore Einstein will not be the same without his presence."

"Jim was in many ways the heart and soul of our department - a master surgeon, a world-class educator, and a beloved colleague for all," said Emad Eskandar, MD, MBA, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center. "His sudden loss is heart-breaking and his memory will always remain foremost in our thoughts. Our sympathy and prayers go to his wife Judy, and all those who were close to him."

Dr. Goodrich passed away on March 30, 2020 from complications associated with COVID-19. He is survived by his wife and three sisters. Our deepest condolences go out to his family.