

Obituary

Ann Marie Schwartz Kazez 1955–2000



Ann Marie Schwartz Kazez died unexpectedly at home in February, a few days before her 45th birthday. She is survived by her husband, 3 young children, stepdaughter, parents and siblings.

Ann Marie received her medical training at the Medical College of Ohio, her training in pathology at George Washington University, and her neuropathology training at the Medical College of Virginia. Early in her career she developed a research interest in the auditory system while working as a research assistant at Case Western Reserve University. Before her residency in pathology she pursued that interest as a staff fellow in the Laboratory of Neuro-otolaryngology at NIH-NINCDS. Her early papers focused on the morphology and development of the spiral ganglion and of auditory nuclei in the brainstem.

Upon completion of her residency and fellowship, she took positions first at the University of Rochester and then at SUNY Upstate Medical School in Syracuse. In addition to fulfilling her role as a staff neuropathologist, she rekindled her interest in the auditory system in studies on age-related changes in the inferior colliculus. At the same time her research broadened into areas related to her interests in neuropathology. The majority of her research in this area dealt with clinico-pathological correlations. Ann Marie was always available to work on the pathological aspects of a number of clinical conditions. The variety of topics covered by her publications speaks to her willingness to pursue many diverse diseases and conditions. Of these, Alzheimer's disease received the majority of her attention. Her papers examined the overlap between Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body diseases, both cortical Lewy body dementia and Parkinson's disease. In related papers, her work addressed the issue of diagnosis and misdiagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other clinico-pathological presentations in Alzheimer's disease. As a part of the Rochester Alzheimer's Disease Center, she provided valuable pathological expertise for a number of papers on basic science questions and their relationship to the pathological lesions of Alzheimer's disease.

Ann Marie was a valued researcher and collaborator with diverse interests. Her untimely death comes as a sorrowful shock to her colleagues, friends, and family.

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