

## Editorial

---

# Issue dedicated to Dr Linda Michaud

It is with sadness and honor that JPRM is dedicating this issue to Linda E. Michaud, MD. Linda passed away last year, two days after the AAPM&R conference, quietly at the McCarthy Care Center in Sandwich, Massachusetts. She will be honored at the 2016 AAPM&R meeting by being awarded the Gabriella E. Molnar-Swofford Pediatric PM&R Lifetime Achievement Award for her expertise, knowledge and leadership. This is fitting as Linda was one of the first supporters of starting this award.

From JPRM's perspective, Dr. Michaud served as a reviewer and a guest editor. When JPRM was in its infancy, she always encouraged us to "keep going", to get indexed, and to expand our research focus of pediatric rehabilitation. From a personal perspective, I have to thank Linda for introducing me to Pediatric PM&R. My first exposure to the field was as a fourth year medical student rotating at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Seashore House. She was a young, dynamic attending who unbeknownst to me at the time would have a significant impact on my career choice and in our field. She trained numerous residents and fellows, served on multiple editorial boards, published multiple pediatric TBI and other manuscripts, lectured and volunteered worldwide. She was committed to the development of research in the field – always encouraging her residents to submit abstracts and fellows to participate in the RMSTP program. Many of her residents and fellows are now in both academic and leadership positions throughout the United States.

We thank her for her dedication to the field of Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine.

*Jacob A. Neufeld, MD, MSPH*  
Editor in Chief

### **Tribute to Dr. Linda Michaud from Cincinnati Children's**

Dr. Michaud was formerly the Aaron W. Perlman Professor of Pediatric PM&R and Director of the Division of PM&R at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (1997–2013). In 2013 Dr. Michaud moved to the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network in Boston as Director of Pediatric PM&R Research. She was nationally and internationally esteemed for her expertise in cerebral palsy, spinal cord disorders, and injury to the brain or brachial plexus and for her use of interventions such as Botox and electrical stimulation to speed recovery in injured children. She was a true advocate for these children and an unforgettable pioneer in her field.

Thank you for dedicating this issue to her memory.

*Margaret K. Hostetter, MD*  
B.K. Rachford Professor  
Chair, Department of Pediatrics  
Director, Cincinnati Children's Research Foundation  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center

Linda was a superb clinician and clinical educator. She was very detail oriented in her examination skills and she greatly enjoyed the time she could spend with patients and families. An “afternoon” clinic with Linda often became an “evening clinic” secondary to the time that she would spend. After her retirement, it was humorous to meet with her families to hear stories of patients and families who would pack snacks and recreational activities when coming to clinic as they knew they would be there for a while. On the other hand, it has been very sad to share the story of her passing with the patients that she worked with for over 10 years. There have been many tears shed by patients, mothers and fathers when they hear of Linda’s passing. She developed a very close and trusting relationship with these families and this has been demonstrated by the emotion and stories shared by them over the last few months.

*David W. Pruitt, MD*

Associate Professor, Clinical Pediatrics and Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
Medical Director, Inpatient Pediatric Rehabilitation Unit and Programs  
Fellowship Director, Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine  
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

When I learned Linda was coming back to New England, it felt like a homecoming, and was a source of anticipation, both on professional and personal grounds. She told me with pride of the extremely successful training program she had built and nurtured, and of her desire to contribute to research in her field as her “next phase”, along with having the chance to spend time with family and friends. We planned research collaborations, new roles, and papers we would write. We got together to hike and to plan kayak adventures. I sent her graduate students to mentor. I told everyone I could think of about Linda and her many talents, and looked ahead to fruitful interaction.

Then, a brief hiatus, until the day she came to my office at Mass General to tell me about her diagnosis. While I have seen many people face medical crises and challenges, few have taken on one of this magnitude with the clear vision, pragmatism, and concern for others so typical of Linda. She wanted no fuss, not even much sympathy – just for us to be there with her in spirit, and to keep doing the jobs that resonated with her commitment to children, to nature, and to relationships that defined her character for all the years I knew her.

*Tina Duhaime, MD*

Pediatric Neurosurgeon  
Massachusetts General Hospital for Children

One of Linda’s missions was to further the field of pediatric rehabilitation. She built an exceptional pediatric rehabilitation program in Cincinnati. She left an endowment to our department to further resident research and support building our pediatric physiatry program. She saved a quote, shared by her family, by Albert Pine that reflects this mission: “What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal.”

*Ross Zafonte DO*

Earle P. and Ida S. Charlton Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Harvard Medical School  
Vice President of Medical Affairs, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital  
Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Massachusetts General Hospital