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PLAN TO ATTEND!



AnnualMeeting.html

In Memoriam...

Marc Pomerantz, MD

(27th December 1937–20th April 2012)

Richard C. Shiell, MBBS Melbourne, Australia

The ISHRS has lost another of its Founders and I have lost a fine friend. His dynamic wife Cheryl died less than two years ago and was another great loss to our Society.

Marc was an active contributor to the Forum in the early days and was in Dallas, Texas, for the inaugural meeting of our fledgling Society in 1993. He was elected to the first Executive Committee and was on the Board of Governors for some years. He held the post of Chair of the Membership Committee for 18 years since its inception and helped author our Code of Ethics.

His parents and first wife were physicians and so was his maternal grandfather who came from Odessa. His sister is a pediatrician and her husband is a research physician and one of their sons is also a physician. Family get-togethers were likened to doctors' conventions. Marc has two daughters from his first marriage.



Marc married Cheryl in June 1985. In fact, he actually married her twice. Firstly in a civil service soon after his divorce, and then a second time in a large, elegant ceremony in the newly restored Victorian-style Midlands hotel in downtown Chicago. They celebrated their 25th anniversary in June 2010 just before Cheryl died suddenly in July 2010. They were a devoted couple and her death was a terrible blow to Marc and to her son Justin Koehler. We grieve with Justin for this double loss within 21 months.

Education and Early Career

Marc was born on December 27, 1937, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in 1963 graduated from the Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. He took an Internship and Residency in General Surgery at Rush-Presbyterian-St Luke's Hospital in Chicago.

Marc spent 1966 as a Staff Surgeon in the Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton, California, and served as a surgeon in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V" in December 1969. On returning to Chicago, Marc completed his Surgical Residency and in 1971 was certified by the American Board of Surgery. He continued in the Naval Reserve until 1972, reaching the rank of Lieutenant Commander. He later became Assistant Professor of Surgery at St Luke's where he served on many Boards and Advisory Committees from 1973 to 1989. Marc published many articles and book chapters on surgical topics during this period.

Marc, then developing interest in hair transplantation, joined the Bosley Group in Los Angeles, where he became an Associate Medical Director 1989-90. He was very happy for a time but then returned to Chicago where he became associated with the Elliot-Thomas Group in 1990 and then with the New Hair Institute. With NHI clinic founder Dr. Bill Rassman, he established a branch of NHI in Chicago and helped write the first edition of a very fine patient booklet titled, *Hair Today and Tomorrow*. This went through several editions. In 1996, he formed the Chicago Hair Institute where he was still working at the time of his death.

I asked Marc's step-son Justin how Marc, an experienced gastro-intestinal surgeon with a great head of hair, became interested in hair transplantation. He replied:

To my knowledge, Marc was the first surgeon in Chicago to do gastro-plastic bypass surgery and worked on research with Dr. Mason, who was the inventor of the procedure. He and my Mom were also part of the first surgical Presidential Task Force from the U.S. to the former Soviet Union to examine and consult with their Soviet colleagues about surgical conditions. This was around 1984 under "Glasnost" and they