THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE
Harvard University

Stanley Walzer

Dr. Stanley Walzer was above all a sensitive and insightful child and adolescent psychiatrist who brought much sensitivity and understanding to the clinical care of his patients and to the science of his research. It was in his care of and research with children carrying an extra X or extra Y chromosome that he was able to develop evidence that would inform the long-term care of these children into young adult life. Stanley had the valuable ability to sit back and look objectively at behaviors and symptoms until he found unifying patterns and principles. These observations led him to build working models and ideas about his patients, then to approach other colleagues and uniquely build for his time a multidisciplinary behavioral genetics research team. Much of what was garnered from this collaborative research changed the ways in which we understand children with specific genetic syndromes and their maturation into adolescents and young adults. His work has shaped the ways in which we inform and care for this patient population and served as the first model for behavioral genetics research today.

Born in New York City on August 23, 1929, Stanley received his A.B. degree from Syracuse University in 1951—graduating Magna Cum Laude and named to the Phi Beta Kappa Society—and his M.D. from University of Vermont in 1954, graduating Cum Laude and a member of the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha Society. He served as an intern in medicine at Bellevue Medical Center (1955-1956), a general psychiatry resident at Cincinnati General Hospital (1956-1958), and a Fellow in Child Psychiatry from Judge Baker Guidance Center and Boston Children's Hospital Medical Center (1958-1960). Subsequently, he was the Chief of Psychiatry (1960 to 1962) at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island. From 1961 on he also held appointments at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital. Stanley served as a Research Fellow in Clinical Genetics from 1964-1965 and a Special Fellow at National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development from 1965 to 1967. During his career he received level 1 and level 2 NIMH Career Development Awards. From 1977 to 1981 he served as a Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School as well as Acting Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. In 1981 he was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, Chairman of Psychiatry at Boston Children's Hospital, and Director of the Judge Baker Children's Center. The following year he became the George P. Gardner/Olga E. Monks Professor of Child Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, a title he retained until his retirement in 1995. He served Boston Children's Hospital, the Judge Baker Children's Center, and Harvard Medical School in a wide variety of roles, always as a teacher, as a role model, as someone deeply committed to children and their well-being, and he served with great distinction.

Stanley concentrated his research efforts on behavior genetics, which at the time was a new area of investigation in psychiatry. At Boston Children's Hospital, he had a successful collaboration with Dr. Park Gerald and a team of clinical research colleagues in Genetics. With his primary research interest in the development of children with sex chromosome aneuploidy, Stanley described the XYY genotype, a highly controversial undertaking because of the apparent overrepresentation of men with this genotype

among individuals with antisocial behavior. His seminal work is the longitudinal study of a group of children with XXY and XYY syndrome. He characterized these youngsters in a series of groundbreaking papers describing the phenomenology of their behavior, their growth, and, with colleagues, their communication and literacy abilities. Following these children for many years, he conducted research while also providing help and support to these youngsters and their families as needed. At a time when few studied genetic abnormalities and psychiatric disorders, Stanley was a true pioneer.

Stanley was one of the first to be involved in developing methods and strategies for studying genetic abnormalities and their relationship to psychiatric illness, including a chromosome survey of 2400 normal newborns, more generally studying behavioral genetics, and in describing what was then known as "minimal brain dysfunction." With Dr. Julius Richmond, he wrote pioneering work about the epidemiology of learning disorders and the importance of learning as a central task of children. Together with Dr. Richmond, in a classic paper, Stanley advanced the idea that child development is the basic science for child health professions.

Stanley was profoundly dedicated to his faculty. He cared deeply about the members of the Department of Psychiatry and worked tirelessly on their behalf. He was particularly interested in research and strongly supported the development of serious investigation in child psychiatry and psychology. He strongly supported the training programs in the Department as means of developing the next generation of educators. During his years at Boston Children's Hospital he was responsible for the expansion of psychiatric services, for their day-to-day operation, and for the encouragement of a generation of young researchers (myself included).

Always mindful of his patients, on the day of the 1986 Challenger disaster, I well remember Stanley's concern for the students attending Judge Baker Children's Center's Manville School and what could be done to help them through this difficult event. He was most devoted to his wife and his children and spoke of them frequently with great fondness. Stanley summered in Maine and was the long-time camp doctor of Camp Powhatan in Maine, and a very strong supporter of Seeds of Peace International Camp, dedicated to bringing children of different countries together and fostering international understanding.

Dr. Stanley Walzer is deeply beloved and will be remembered with fondness and respect by those in the Boston Children's Hospital community and the many other communities he touched.

Respectfully submitted,
William R. Beardslee, MD