



Allan Goodman, M.D.

1942 - 2004

My partner and friend, Allan Goodman died Nov 11, 2004, at his home on Humboldt Hill after a more than 10 year battle with thymic carcinoma.

Those 10 years saw Allan undergo two thoracotomies, radiation, pleurodesis, and innumerable courses of chemotherapy. Allan did not “go gentle into that good night,” but when he realized he had exhausted all potentially effective therapies, he accepted the inevitable with the active involvement and dignity with which he lived his life.

Allan was born in Santa Monica, the son of a general practitioner. He attended U.C. Berkeley, where he met his future wife, Lori Bernstein, whom he married in the summer of 1963. They went off for medical school at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, then an internship and residency at U.C.L.A. followed by fulfilling his Berry Plan military commitment with a year in Long Binh in Vietnam and then a year in Colorado Springs. Allan returned to U.C.L.A. to complete his residency then studied hepatology under Telford Reynolds at U.S.C.

The Goodmans lived across the corridor from Larry and Terri Hill during internship at U.C.L.A. and maintained their friendship as they went their separate ways through training and the military. When each needed to decide on a practice after fellowship, Larry Hill told Allan about an opportunity Gary Baker had told him about in Fortuna. The community was offering a paid recruiting trip to visit, which they did, and both families decided to move to the area and associate with Ted Welton. A year later Allan and Larry decided to join with Jerome Lengyel to form Eureka Internal Medicine. They were the first Board Certified Internists in the county. In the mid 70's there were no gastroenterologists in the area, and endoscopy was in its infancy.

Having been trained in hepatology, Allan saw that he was the right fit to fill Eureka's need for endoscopy services and grew with the field to eventually limit his practice to gastroenterology and perform the wide range of endoscopy for the community. And he did it skillfully. Jack Irvine joined E.I.M. in 1975, and Cyril Barch and I joined in 1980. Eureka Internal Medicine continued to expand over the years to our present size of 17 doctors and 3 mid levels. Allan was always our heart and conscience. He deeply believed in quality medical care, had a keen eye for the business of medicine, and was a prime mover and visionary for our group. Allan loved medicine but also loved his non-professional life. He encouraged me to take up fly fishing though I never could hope to approach his dedication and skill in the sport. He made yearly pilgrimages to Christmas Island for its world class bonefishing, and innumerable forays into our local waters for steelhead.

In years past he was heavily into volleyball in area traveling leagues, and skiing at Bend, Oregon. But, next to Lori and his daughters, I sensed that Allan's greatest love was golf. He learned it at a very early age, and was junior champion in Los Angeles for several years. I seem to recall that he

once told me that there was a time when he had to decide whether to become a professional golfer or go into medicine. Myth or not, he served both masters for much of his life, and was beyond good in each field.

I met Allan the day I arrived in Humboldt County. It was Allan who asked me to move to Eureka Internal Medicine from Arcata four years later. I admired who he was and what he accomplished. Our practice is where it is today because of his vision. Humboldt County medicine has greatly benefited from his skills. He will be dearly missed.

By Richard J. Wolf, M.D.