



## David Allen Margolin

July 8, 1962 - April 26, 2020

David Allen Margolin passed away on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at the age of 57. A native of Shaker Heights, OH and a resident of Metairie, LA.

David enrolled in Tulane University in 1980, graduating in 1984 with a BA in history. He went on to earn his MD at the Medical College of Ohio 1989. David completed his general surgery residency at Case Western Reserve University and his Colon and Rectal fellowship at The Ochsner Clinic. Since 2002 he has been the Director of Colorectal Research at Ochsner and a Professor of Surgery at The University of Queensland and Ochsner Schools of Medicine.

David lived by three rules; try your best, have fun, and finish strong. For David, trying your best meant devoting yourself entirely to what you did. His dedication to his patients and his profession was obvious to anyone who met him. Not only was he a great doctor, but he was a scholar and a teacher. He authored over 80 research publications and 11 book chapters. He shared his knowledge, the skills he'd accumulated, and innumerable 'Margolin-isms' with the more than 30 fellows and countless residents over the last 20 years. This dedication was recognized with multiple teaching and research awards: the Edward Frohlich Researcher of the Year in 2013, the Joseph L. Ponka Outstanding Surgical Teacher Award in 2000, and the Ochsner Surgical Teacher Award twice, most recently in 2019.

His professional dedication was only surpassed by his dedication to golf and Cleveland sports. Both of these passions generally ended in disappointment, but that never deterred him. He brought a joy to everything he tried, from golf to guitars to making bagels. While he would go all in on his hobbies, he would also be the first to laugh at their failures. Despite all his accomplishments, he never took himself too seriously.

18 months ago, David was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer. Since then, he has tried hard, had fun, and certainly finished strong. He traveled around the world, playing golf in Scotland and giving lectures in the Philippines. During 2018 and 2019, he served as President of the American Society of Colorectal Surgeons. Even while undergoing chemotherapy, he continued to see patients and he worked with doctors across the United States and around the world to make sure that his profession was the best it could be. As if that wasn't enough, he also attended Harvard University and received a Master's in Healthcare Management.

Above all, David was a loving husband to his wife of 30 years, Jeanne, and a loving father to his 2 kids, Elizabeth and Eric. Son of Yolande Artz Margolin and Marvin Margolin. Brother of Betsy Margolin Richter and the late Kathy Margolin LeHockey. He will be missed immensely.

As a result of the present circumstances, the funeral service will be private. Please consider sharing your thoughts, favorite memory or condolences at [www.muhleisen.com](http://www.muhleisen.com).

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to make donations to the Dr. David A. Margolin Colon and Rectal Surgery Professorship fund. Donations can be made at [www.ochsner.org/margolin](http://www.ochsner.org/margolin)

# Tribute Wall



“ *David Allen Margolin*

---

October 15, 2023 at 09:39 PM

JM

“ Hello Margolin family. My deepest sympathies to you and your family. I was a first year radiology resident when I met Dr. Margolin. Beyond this encounter, I didn't spend very much direct time with him during my training. But that initial meeting is something I'd like to share and I hope it brings you all some joy.

*It was my first week of the rotation and I was stumbling through rectal MRIs. About 7:30 AM, I hadn't dictated but maybe 1 or 2 words. Dr. Margolin knocked and came into the reading room. I had no idea who the man was but he looked really important and smart. Terrified he would discover how much I didn't know and belittle me for it, I thought to myself, "please don't ask me a question." He did... I didn't know the answer or how to help him at all. I think he could see the sweat dripping off my face. I turned around nervously and I saw a friendly grin (which I thought was odd to see on a surgeon). Ashamed and embarrassed, I admitted I had no experience and expected brutal humiliation.*

*Without hesitation, he enthusiastically said, "No problem, let's walk you through it!" He eagerly sat down and taught me image by image how to approach the study. Keep in mind, I'm a radiology resident, a completely different specialty. He spent 20 minutes eagerly and kindly teaching me, and I'll never forget it. It was natural to him. He was not condescending - He was kind, friendly, and we even had a few laughs. When he walked out of the room, I thought to myself, "man, I really like that surgeon." More importantly, I had a really good grasp of rectal MRI. That's how I'll remember him - a gifted medical educator and someone I look up to.*

*Warmest regards,*

*James Murray*

---

James Murray - July 26, 2021 at 08:32 AM

PN

“ Dear Yo: I am so very sorry. There are no words. I am so sorry. Paul

Paul Nowack - May 30, 2020 at 08:07 AM

EB

“ Jeanne, Jim and I enjoyed running into you recently and catching up and we were stunned to hear yesterday of David's passing. Our deepest sympathies and condolences to you and your children. Sincerely, Emily Brown

Emily Brown - May 17, 2020 at 02:57 PM

BH

“ I was a patient of Dr Margolin's for almost 8 years. Words cannot express his kindness, professionalism & his humor. I just learned of his passing yesterday. My deepest sympathy to his family & to his medical field family. We had a standing joke “ he was my BFF, he has gone where no other man has ever gone & no other man ever will.” We would always have a good laugh. As other people have said, he made the world a better place, and will be greatly missed. May his family find some peace in their sadness. Beryl Hightower

Beryl Hightower - May 12, 2020 at 08:59 AM

EW

“ Dr Margolin was one of the kindest men I've ever known. He literally saved my life twice. He always made me laugh especially when I was crying. He demanded top notch care for me on every hospital stay. I will never forget his laugh, his kind smile & the way he spoke of his family so lovingly! Thank you to his beautiful family for sharing him with myself and all of his patients. In Peace & Love~ Emmy Walker

emmy Walker - May 09, 2020 at 03:11 PM

BP

“ *Dr. Margolin was our physician for many years.  
He was always very proficient in his area of expertise.*

*We really enjoyed seeing his smiling face. He always  
had time to listen to your concerns and never got angry or upset.*

*We will miss him and his hugs. Our thoughts go out to go out to his  
wife Jeanne and his family.*

*CLIFF AND BETTY PARENT*

---

**BETTY and CLIFF PARENT** - May 08, 2020 at 06:58 PM

EA

“ *Jeanne, I am so sorry to read about David's passing. My prayers  
are with you, Eric and Bizzy. Elizabeth Adler*

---

**Elizabeth Adler** - May 05, 2020 at 09:16 AM

BJ

“ I was shocked today to hear of Dave's passing from another medical school bud. Dave was a great friend to me through medical school and residency, and my roommate for the last year of medical school. My mind is now flooded with so many memories of those years where Dave had such a positive influence. Through the years we have not spoken much, likely because both of us have a passion for the work that we do, but he was never very far from my mind. I will always remember his ready smile, his eager clumsiness on the basketball court, and his passion for everything he touched. I will miss him even though we did not speak much. The world was so much better with him around.

*Bill Jaquis*

---

**Bill Jaquis** - May 03, 2020 at 10:00 AM

BM

“ *Jeanne, Eric, Bizzy,*  
*Our heartfelt condolences are with you all during this difficult time. David's loving smile and laughter will live on forever through each of you. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers....*

*The McGowan Family*



---

**Brian McGowan** - May 01, 2020 at 07:16 PM

HB

“ The fact that I had the impression that he was a very genuine, personable man of strong character, immense kindness, patience, and wisdom from just the few brief discussions I had with him should speak multitudes for the person he was at all times. I'm saddened and angered at the fact that he didn't get more time on this planet to spend with his wife and children (and one day, perhaps, his grandchildren). His family is a very apparent legacy to the honorable characteristics I described above. They are good, kind, smart people and my heart has been with them since he died on Sunday. I love you guys. - Hope

---

Hope Brusstar - April 30, 2020 at 12:22 PM



GB

“ I met David in August of 1980. Formally in his dorm room at Tulane University. Informally a few nights earlier at a Radiators show at what would be our Fraternity house as pledges and then brothers of sigma Chi. He has been in my life for almost 40 years. I trusted him, confided in him and shared with as if he were my brother. Starting the late 1990's we had golf weekends all over our country with our other brothers. I think we started "Margo" on his development and passion for golf. Oh how I would love to see that special twitch he had when about to swing his iron shots . Just one more time. May you Rest In Peace brother Margolin. I/we will miss you so dearly. G

---

Greg Barr - April 30, 2020 at 10:36 AM

RB

“ My heartfelt condolences go out to you and your loving family. I will surely miss the presence of a truly lovable and kind person. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers  
Words can not properly express how deeply saddened I am by this  
  
David will be missed so much :( 

---

Rachel Barr - April 30, 2020 at 08:23 AM

DN

“ To the family of Dr Margolin, my sympathies are with you in this difficult time. I had the pleasure of working with him, having him as a personal Dr and having him take exceptional care of my Mother who was dx with Colon cancer X2. He as down to earth and easy to speak to. He cried with me and helped me through a very difficult time. in my life. His personality was perfect for my Mom and family. He joked and made you laugh when you did not, think you would ever laugh again. Know that many will miss him, he has touch many, and will be remembered as a loving, caring and funny person I am very fortunate to have had in my life. Prayers are extended to you.

*Deanna Cristina Nettles. R.T.R.M.*

---


**Deanna Cristina Nettles** - April 29, 2020 at 08:55 PM

MS

“ From the OR Staff of Chabert:  
Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Dr. Margolin held a special place in our hearts at Chabert. His personality, professional skill, overall patience and sense of humor were a joy! His arrival in the OR was often accompanied by lots of laughter, big grin & hugs. He enjoyed coming “down the bayou” and always made us feel comfortable working with him. Always ready to both teach & learn.. always willing to see how “creative “ his bayou peeps were when he asked for something that we simply didn’t have or had never even heard of! His sincere concern for our patients and us as well, was one of his many endearing qualities. He will be truly missed by all. May his family, friends and loved ones take comfort in the collective memories that we share and his drive for excellence live on in each of us. ❤️

---

**monique soudelier** - April 29, 2020 at 03:56 PM



Brittany  
Juneau

“ *My deepest condolences go out to the family. I had the pleasure of working with his wife, who has become a good friend of mine. It is devastating to hear about the loss of a wonderful surgeon. Jeanne had nothing but the best things to say about her husband! He will be truly missed among all.*

*Sending prayers,  
Brittany J.*

---

**Brittany Juneau** - April 29, 2020 at 03:14 PM



JM

“ *I had the privilege of knowing David for many years as a professional colleague and always found him to be a gracious and kind man. During the last 2 years we have many discussions regarding his golfing adventures in Ireland which seemed to involve some significant pub life. That confirmed to me - as an Irishman myself - that deep down he was probably Irish and therefore one of the really good guys.*

*Sadly missed and never forgotten.*

*John Monson, Orlando*

---

**John Monson** - April 29, 2020 at 01:06 PM

AF

“ *Jeanne, sending our sincerest thoughts and condolences to your family. Although I never met David, I felt like I knew him. You and David are a wonderful couple and I cannot thank you enough for opening your hearts and making my father feel as though he was part of your family! May the wonderful memories live in your hearts forever.*

*All our love, Aimee & Mike Fretwell*

---

**Aimee Fretwell** - April 29, 2020 at 12:39 PM

DB

“ *I had the privilege of working with Dr. Margolin for many years. He was a great doctor and teacher. My sincere condolences to his family. He will be missed by so many patients, co-workers, friends and family. Sending prayers to all.* Darlynn Burton



*M*

---

**Darlynn Burton** - April 29, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ *I have nothing but very fond memories of David and the family. We got to spend a meal with him and family when we were in NO. I enjoyed so much the family gatherings at the Margolin household in Shaker Heights on special occasions. I can still remember sitting in the den and David talking about becoming a physician like his dear Uncle Shelly. He had quite an amazing and accomplished life cut down way too soon in his prime. Our condolences. Steve, Annie, and Cory Feldman. Cory will also be receiving his masters in health administration this May.*

---

**Steven Feldman** - April 29, 2020 at 10:42 AM

EM

“ So sorry for your loss. As a colleague at Ochsner , I always enjoyed talking with David on a range of subjects. It was a pleasure to have known and worked with him. He will be deeply missed by many.

*Ed Bluth*

---

**Edward Bluth MD** - April 29, 2020 at 09:54 AM

JG

*Our hearts go out to Jeanne, Elizabeth, Eric and the entire family. Not only was David a tremendous physician, surgeons and teacher, he was a wonderful husband and father. A real mensch He will be truly missed.*

---

**Jay Goldsmith** - April 29, 2020 at 12:06 PM

JD

*Jeanne, so sorry for the loss of your beloved husband. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*  
*Judy drez*

---

**judy drez** - May 03, 2020 at 05:23 PM

TH

“ To the family of Dr.David Margolin my sincere Condolences and Prayers to you all during this sorrowful time.  
*Dr.Margolin saved my life. I'm Terrence H.Butler, Sr. Of New Orleans.*  
*When I took I'll in 2012 I WENT to the emergency ward. There I met Dr.Margolin for the first time. He looked me right in the eyes and squarely told me my situation. He fully explained the process that I would be enduring. By his confidence I knew that he was my Doctor. The surgery that he performed on me was very successful and I'm here Today because of his devotion, dedication and Highly Professional Skill set. I will be forever Greatful to Dr.David Margolin for his help in saving my life. God Bless, Respectfully, Terrence H.Butler, Sr.*

---

**Terrence H.Butler,Sr.** - April 29, 2020 at 09:52 AM