Editorial

From the desk of Peter F. Buckley, MD



S. Charles Schulz, MD (1945-2017)

Dear Readers,

S. Charles ("Chuck") Schulz, MD, aged 71, passed away at home on October 1, 2017 in the loving care of his wife Shannon and with the love of his daughter Lyndsey, son Will, and stepdaughter Chelsea.

Over a career spanning four decades, Chuck made formative contributions and sustained a remarkable passion for advancing schizophrenia research and an unwavering compassion for patients and their families.

Chuck was born on December 18, 1945, in Evanston, Illinois. In addition to being an exceptional student, Chuck was an avid track runner, attaining state champion of cross-country in both junior and senior years and being on the track team during his undergraduate education at University of Southern California.

His endurance as a runner was also evident in his career as he pursued a lifelong focus on schizophrenia. A student experience in 1970 at Camarillo State Hospital, California, talking with people with severe schizophrenia, turned out to be the formative moment that ignited Chuck's interest in schizophrenia. After completing medical school and a psychiatric residency at University of California at Los Angeles in 1977, Chuck began a clinical associateship at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) on the Schizophrenia Research Unit. In 1980, Chuck moved to the Department of Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University where he established a Schizophrenia Program. As one of the very early specialty programs, Chuck initiated a specialized schizophrenia inpatient team, an outpatient program to follow-up on the patients who had been on the floor, and established a link to the state's mental health system. He also developed a family support group. In 1983, Chuck was appointed Medical Director of the Schizophrenia Module at University of Pittsburgh Department of Psychiatry, where he and his colleagues participated at Mayview State Hospital as a site for the clozapine registration study. In recognition of his support to families in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, he was awarded the United Mental Health, Inc. Award.

Chuck then returned to the NIMH in 1986 to participate in the National Plan for Schizophrenia. In his role as Chief (1988–1989) of the Schizophrenia Research Branch, Chuck initiated the Public Academic Liaison (PAL) program. This was to advance university collaborations with state and community systems. He received the United States Public Health Service Medal of Commendation for his initiation of the Public Academic Liaison (PAL) Program.

Upon moving to be Chair (1989–1999) of the Department of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Chuck forged new links between University's service and connection to the community, in both community mental health and the state's system, where he was able to begin training residents and medical students. Chuck's adaptation of the PAL model linked CWRU to the Western Reserve State Hospital, which substantially improved the care and education of Best Practices in treating people with schizophrenia.

In 1999, Chuck was appointed Chair and Hastings Endowed Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, a position he held until 2016 when he assumed Emeritus Professor. In Minneapolis, Chuck initiated a schizophrenia program with both First Episode and then the Prodrome Programs, and he also continued his "walk the walk" leadership by serving regularly as an attending on the Psychosis Unit. In 2016, Chuck completed his professional career at PrairieCare, which was most apt since in that role he supported the Director whom he had selflessly mentored over years from medical student to physician leader.

over...

Editorial

From the desk of Peter F. Buckley, MD



S. Charles Schulz, MD (1945-2017)

Dear Readers,

S. Charles ("Chuck") Schulz, MD, aged 71, passed away at home on October 1, 2017 in the loving care of his wife Shannon and with the love of his daughter Lyndsey, son Will, and stepdaughter Chelsea.

Over a career spanning four decades, Chuck made formative contributions and sustained a remarkable passion for advancing schizophrenia research and an unwavering compassion for patients and their families.

Chuck was born on December 18, 1945, in Evanston, Illinois. In addition to being an exceptional student, Chuck was an avid track runner, attaining state champion of cross-country in both junior and senior years and being on the track team during his undergraduate education at University of Southern California.

His endurance as a runner was also evident in his career as he pursued a lifelong focus on schizophrenia. A student experience in 1970 at Camarillo State Hospital, California, talking with people with severe schizophrenia, turned out to be the formative moment that ignited Chuck's interest in schizophrenia. After completing medical school and a psychiatric residency at University of California at Los Angeles in 1977, Chuck began a clinical associateship at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) on the Schizophrenia Research Unit. In 1980, Chuck moved to the Department of Psychiatry at Virginia Commonwealth University where he established a Schizophrenia Program. As one of the very early specialty programs, Chuck initiated a specialized schizophrenia inpatient team, an outpatient program to follow-up on the patients who had been on the floor, and established a link to the state's mental health system. He also developed a family support group. In 1983, Chuck was appointed Medical Director of the Schizophrenia Module at University of Pittsburgh Department of Psychiatry, where he and his colleagues participated at Mayview State Hospital as a site for the clozapine registration study. In recognition of his support to families in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area, he was awarded the United Mental Health, Inc. Award.

Chuck then returned to the NIMH in 1986 to participate in the National Plan for Schizophrenia. In his role as Chief (1988–1989) of the Schizophrenia Research Branch, Chuck initiated the Public Academic Liaison (PAL) program. This was to advance university collaborations with state and community systems. He received the United States Public Health Service Medal of Commendation for his initiation of the Public Academic Liaison (PAL) Program.

Upon moving to be Chair (1989–1999) of the Department of Psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), Chuck forged new links between University's service and connection to the community, in both community mental health and the state's system, where he was able to begin training residents and medical students. Chuck's adaptation of the PAL model linked CWRU to the Western Reserve State Hospital, which substantially improved the care and education of Best Practices in treating people with schizophrenia.

In 1999, Chuck was appointed Chair and Hastings Endowed Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, a position he held until 2016 when he assumed Emeritus Professor. In Minneapolis, Chuck initiated a schizophrenia program with both First Episode and then the Prodrome Programs, and he also continued his "walk the walk" leadership by serving regularly as an attending on the Psychosis Unit. In 2016, Chuck completed his professional career at PrairieCare, which was most apt since in that role he supported the Director whom he had selflessly mentored over years from medical student to physician leader.

over...

Chuck had a particular devotion to education and mentoring. He participated with joy in the lecturing/supervising of medical students and residents. He had a lifelong commitment and investment of time and personal interest in supporting and training future leaders in schizophrenia research. He was encouraging, always had positive comments about people and their work, and he was always interested in the opinions of even his most junior colleagues. For his mentorship, Chuck was a recipient of the Kempf Fund Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

In 1983, Chuck published—in the prestigious journal Science—a seminal study that debunked the prevailing notion that dialysis could be a treatment for schizophrenia. Always in the forefront of schizophrenia research, Chuck designed and participated in many other important studies over the years, with a major focus on imaging in adolescents and young adults. His contributions led to a better understanding of brain changes that occur at the outset of schizophrenia and also influenced how the field has come to recognize the prodome of psychosis.

Perhaps Chuck's most compelling contribution was his co-founding of the International Congress on Schizophrenia Research, along with his colleague and lifelong friend, Dr. Carol Tamminga. This biennial conference, conceived by Chuck and Carol as part of the National Plan on Schizophrenia Research, had a profound impact over thirty years of schizophrenia research through fostering new knowledge, new collaborations, and new investigators.

Among the many awards that he received throughout a productive career, Chuck received the 2013 Wayne Fenton Award for Exceptional Clinical Care, as well as the 2014 Stanley Dean Award from the American College of Psychiatrists. These prestigious awards were in recognition of four decades of work spanning patient care, family psychoeducation, research, advocacy of research in schizophrenia programs as well as teaching. Although Chuck will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues, his body of work and his leadership will remain as a timeless source of inspiration.

Chuck was an exceptionally congenial person and he greatly enjoyed his friendships with colleagues worldwide. On one occasion when Chuck and I were together at a European conference on schizophrenia, he humorously informed his wife Shannon that I was teaching him Irish! Reflecting now on a life well lived, Chuck would undoubtedly have appreciated this final Irish well-wishing ... A dheis De anam ... may he rest at God's right hand.

Best regards,

Peter F. Buckley, MD Editor-in-Chief