



Dr. Barrie deVeber, Scott Wiley, Katherine Wiley & Rh Vaccine (1968)

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Memories of Dr. Barrie deVeber M.D., FRCPC (January 27, 1929 – February 28, 2019)

The deVeber Institute's co-founder and first President – Dr. Barrie deVeber – passed away on the 28th of February 2019. He was born and raised in Toronto, graduated from the University of Toronto Medical School in 1953, and fulfilled a long and illustrious career as a pediatric hematologist-oncologist. His innovations in cancer, intra-uterine Rh factor treatment, and haemophilia, benefited the lives of many. Dr. deVeber

consistently put the needs of others ahead of his own. He was a pioneer in palliative care for children, and his medical career spanned the globe – from Canada to England and Africa. Dr. deVeber partook in the establishment of many humanitarian organizations including Camp Trillium, London Montessori School, deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research, and Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.



Dr. Barrie deVeber

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Please note that our mailing address and fax number have changed



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“ The deVeber Institute was formed to provide objective, scholarly, and reliable research on life issues. We want to educate, not only the medical world, but everybody, on these important ethical issues. It started officially as the Human Life Research Institute (in 1983). In 1996 when I was away in Africa, they decided to rename it the deVeber Institute for Bioethics and Social Research. I didn't want it named after me. ‘We voted unanimously,’

they replied, and it's been named the deVeber Institute ever since. The deVeber Institute works to ensure that the dignity of the human being is at the center of any discussion surrounding life issues. And this is often done by unveiling the myths behind various medical and ethical assumptions.”

–Dr. Barrie deVeber

[source: deVeber, L.L. (2015) Barrie: The Memoirs of Dr. L.L. deVeber. London, ON: Euthanasia Prevention Coalition]

In honour of Dr. Barrie deVeber, we have also asked several of his lifelong friends and colleagues to share their memories of him...

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Those of us who were privileged to know Barrie will remember him as a humble person who almost never boasted about himself. Yet he did so much good in his long life, and he gave so much encouragement to other people. His guiding passion was a profound belief in the preciousness of human life. Each and every human being was unique and inherently valuable to him, deserving to be cherished from conception to natural death. That is why he helped to found, and sustain, both the deVeber Institute for Bioethics and the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition.

Barrie had a long and distinguished career as a paediatrician and Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Western Ontario. He was part of the team that conquered childhood leukemia. When he started out, in the 1960s, about 80 per cent of children with leukemia died of it. By the time he and his team had finished their work about 80 per cent of children with leukemia were cured of it!

I said Barrie almost never boasted. But he was very proud of the fact that he and his beloved wife Lola were expert ballroom dancers who dazzled onlookers by the way they swept around a dance floor together. He was also proud of his prowess on the squash court. Once I said to him, 'Barrie, I'd like to have a game of squash with you.' He turned to me and said, 'You wouldn't want to play squash with me. I'd wipe the floor with you.' We never played squash together.

Barrie, you will always be fondly remembered, not only by your family, but by all of us who came in contact with you.

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– Ian Gentles
Professor of History and Global Studies (Tyndale University College and Seminary)
Senior Scholar (Glendon College – York University)
Vice-President & Research Co-Director (deVeber Institute)

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Learned and deeply thoughtful, he was never obscure or pedantic. A world-class scientist, he was never vain or pompous. Patient, persistent, and utterly dedicated to the defense of human life, he was never belligerent or dogmatic. His courtly manner and gentle voice made him a welcome presence at any meeting, while his good humor and common sense added immensely to any discussion. A great man, the value of what he accomplished is too little understood – but for someone with Barrie's humility, that would be secondary to the importance of the work itself.

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– Keith Cassidy
Professor Emeritus of History (University of Guelph)
Associate Professor of History and past-President (Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College)
Research Associate (deVeber Institute)



– Elizabeth Cassidy
Adjunct Professor of Psychology (Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College)
Research Associate (deVeber Institute)

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I've known Dr. Barrie deVeber for over forty years. At one point in time, we had worked together for the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition – he was the President and I was the Vice-President.

Dr. Barrie deVeber was a great believer and supporter of the palliative care movement. He advocated for access to pain and symptom management for all age groups, including children. Barrie integrated these interventions with the active care that he provided as a pediatric hematologist-oncologist.

Knowing the families of two of his former pediatric patients gave me the opportunity to hear directly about his compassionate and caring manner and approach. Both of the children survived leukemia

and are now in their mid-thirties. They are living with a good quality of life. Along with their families, they remember him as a hero!

Dr. deVeber was instrumental in the development of several ongoing community initiatives and foundations that taught and supported excellence in medicine, nursing, and allied health care sciences. Barrie was a superb scientist and leader, as well as a highly respected and honoured colleague and friend.

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– Jean Echlin
Adjunct Associate Professor of Nursing (University of Windsor)
Research Associate (deVeber Institute)

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Dr. Barrie deVeber was an amazing physician and friend.

Whenever he encountered another person, he was truly present to that individual – he was intentional with his speech and genuine in his actions. He made everyone whom he came into contact with feel comfortable and at ease. He was a gentle, kind and immensely thoughtful person. He always sought to establish common ground with people and he cultivated understanding between persons of different backgrounds.

He spent a lot of time engaging in charitable activities, often at the expense of his own comfort and downtime.

Simply put, Dr. deVeber was an outstanding human being, an advocate for many important issues, and a leader who always strived to lead by example. He will be greatly missed. I am honoured to have known him.

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– Kathy Matusiak-Costa
Executive Director – on leave (deVeber Institute)