



Douglas Holsclaw Jr, MD

November 25, 1934 - July 25, 2024

Douglas Holsclaw, Jr, MD, 89, passed away on July 25, 2024. Doug retired from the University of Pennsylvania in 2019 after a 60-year medical career dedicated to improving and lengthening the lives of people with cystic fibrosis (CF) and to education about this genetic disorder.

He was laid to rest in Tucson, Arizona at the base of the Catalina mountains. Doug was born and raised in Tucson and maintained a life-long connection with Arizona. He graduated from the University of Arizona where he was student body president.

Doug began his medical training at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he was drawn to pediatrics. It was there that he first learned of cystic fibrosis, directly from researcher Dorothy Anderson, MD, who gave CF its name.

Doug's academic medicine path took him through the University of Chicago for internship, followed by a pediatric residency at the University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital. He honed his skills in pediatric pulmonary medicine with a year at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. He then served as a Navy pediatrician in Oakland, CA, and volunteered at the Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Haiti before settling into specialized clinical practice. He completed his medical training with a fellowship at Harvard University, Boston Children's

Hospital.

In 1970, Doug became the Director of the CF Center at Hahnemann Medical Center in Philadelphia where he was Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine. In 2000, Doug moved to the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine CF Center, from which he retired at age 84.

For several decades he served as an advisor to the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, developing professional education programs and compiling an extensive bibliography on CF as a resource for healthcare providers. Over his long career Doug authored 94 published articles on CF and related subjects.

He was an old-school physician who made himself always available to his patients. He believed deeply in educating them and their families and forged a partnership with them for life. His license plate even read Fight CF. His years of dedication saw the average lifespan increase from eight to 60 in his career and had some patients living into their 70s.

His passion outside of medicine was deeply rooted in the arts. He was a life-long lover of music and an accomplished pianist. He was interested in art history and became an avid collector of American 19th century oil paintings.

Dr. Holsclaw is survived by children Doug III and spouse Melody in San Francisco, and Alyx in Chicago and former spouse Anne Topham Holsclaw in Narberth.

A Celebration of Life is planned for November 16th, noon. For further information please email DSHmemorial24@gmail.com.

His memory may be honored by donations to the Delaware Valley Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 3803 Westchester Pike, Newtown Square, Pa 19073.

Previous Events

Life Celebration

NOV **16**. 12:00 PM.

For further information please email DSHmemorial24@gmail.com.

Tribute Wall



“ He was my 2 cousins' CF doctor. As a nurse, I cannot imagine how my aunt felt upon learning that her only 2 children both had CF. With God's grace, they lived to 44 and 57, which far surpassed the expected prognosis. Doug treated them like family, providing them with the care, education and support they needed. When they each passed, he was there for them as their doctor and advocate.

Lee Lewis - June 14, 2025 at 05:28 PM

ss

“ I never had the privilege of meeting the Doctor, but I did have the honor of meeting several of his lifelong patients who sing his praises.

The world is a darker place today.

Im sorry for your loss. I grieve with you.

ss - April 03, 2025 at 05:50 AM

SB

“ Unfortunately the message of Dr. H’s passing came to us very late after his passing, his loss is truly heartbreaking. My husband was a patient of his for over 4 decades. He sat with him day and night at 1 month old and made sure he was eating, gaining weight and breathing and kept him safe throughout his childhood and continued with him even in his adulthood.

Dr. H became a father figure to Walt when his own father passed and a mentor to me as I learned about CF to make sure he had the best care, even as we ventured into the world away from Philadelphia. Together Walt survived 47yrs and lived his life to the fullest.

It wouldn’t have happened if there was a man with such dedication as Dr. Douglas Holsclaw.

Truly a medical hero of mine and I can only hope that the two of them found each other and are enjoying some golf, fishing or even just a relaxing conversation about adequate nutrition 😊.

RIP Dr. H.

Shane Bartholomew

Shane Bartholomew - April 02, 2025 at 10:11 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Douglas Holsclaw Jr, MD.



November 14, 2024 at 02:38 PM



“ Dr. Holsclaw diagnosed me with CF when I was two and a half years old and it is thanks to him that I am here over forty years later. In the early 1990s, when everyone was sure that a CF cure was right around the corner, Dr. Holsclaw was clear with our family that the path to any kind of a cure was very long and that the work in front of us remained the same: keeping my lungs as clear as possible through hours of really boring treatments and attention to tiny fluctuations in my health. Years later, in my college library, I stumbled on a bibliography of CF that Dr. Holsclaw wrote in the 1970s, and flipping through it helped me understand that the time he spent with my family in the clinic and hospital was just a part of his deep commitment to this disease. The diligent discipline that Dr. Holsclaw taught and embodied in his dedication to CF ultimately helped me survive to benefit from much better medications developed in the 2010s. I feel such gratitude and send my condolences to the family who supported him in caring for all of us. Also, Alyx, I remember having so much fun together!

-Becca Mueller, Abington PA

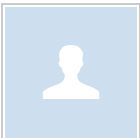
Rebecca Mueller - November 14, 2024 at 08:03 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Douglas Holsclaw Jr, MD.



November 12, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Douglas Holsclaw Jr, MD.

November 12, 2024 at 05:00 PM

PT

“ Penn Adult CF Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Douglas Holsclaw Jr, MD.



Penn Adult CF Team - November 04, 2024 at 01:01 PM

PT

“ Penn Adult CF Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Douglas Holsclaw Jr, MD.

Penn Adult CF Team - November 04, 2024 at 01:01 PM

MM

“ Sorry to hear of Doug’s passing. He was one of my colleagues over 4 years at Hahnemann as I began my career there as a pediatric radiologist. He was a gentleman and firmly dedicated to the care of his patients. He also did a fine job training and setting an example to young pulmonologists to follow in his path. I have retained fond memories of him for 40 years. Condolences to the family.

Marc S. Keller MD

Marc S Keller MD - October 27, 2024 at 07:19 PM