

Dr. Norman Griscti Soler - 1942 - 2014

Daniel Griscti Soler



Dr. Norman Griscti Soler, 71, of Springfield Illinois passed away peacefully at Memorial Medical Center on January 27, 2014.

Dr. Soler was born in Malta in 1942, to loving parents Frank and May Griscti Soler. He was the eldest of five children – Claudia, Albert, Anthony, and Patrick.

Dr. Soler qualified as a doctor in 1964 in Malta at the age of 22. In 1967, he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship and moved to England as a senior registrar in medicine, specializing in Diabetes, at the General Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. In particular, he focused on diabetic pregnancy. In Birmingham, Dr. Soler met his beloved wife, Dr. Susan Soler, and in 1977, together with their two young sons, Richard and John, they accepted an opportunity to move to United States and Springfield Illinois, where Dr. Soler became a Professor of Medicine, Director of Medicine Clerkship, and Chief of Endocrinology at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield Illinois. Shortly thereafter, their daughter, Kate, was born.

In 1989, Dr. Soler established the Springfield Diabetes and Endocrine Centre (SDEC) where he was Medical Director and Director of Research until his retirement last year. Over the 24 years until his retirement, he led the SDEC to become a leading national center for diabetes care and research and one of the largest endocrine practices in the U.S., having over 5000 active patients in its database. He conducted research and clinical trials for virtually every pharmaceutical company involved in diabetes care. Rarely did a product make it to market that he had not already tested and become familiar with. A few years ago, the pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly recognized and celebrated SDEC's excellent long-term clinical outcomes in the treatment of type 1 diabetes. The SDEC continues today as an affiliate of HSHS Medical Group.

Dr. Soler became a member of the Royal College of Physicians (London, 1969); earned his Ph.D. with a thesis on Diabetes in Pregnancy (Birmingham 1970); and was fully accredited by the Royal College of Physicians as a specialist in Endocrinology and Diabetes in 1977. Other professional memberships included the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, American Diabetes Association, Obesity Research Network, American Medical Association, and the Illinois State Medical Society.

Dr. Soler has conducted over 100 research projects throughout his career. Besides caring for his patients who came from all over downstate Illinois, he was passionate about mentoring and teaching others, lecturing extensively in England and other European countries, as well as in the U.S., on a variety of topics related to diabetes and obesity.

Dr. Soler was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and May Griscti Soler. Dr. Soler is survived by his beloved wife, Dr. Susan Soler of Springfield; three loving children, Richard (Rini) Soler, John Soler, and Kate (Dave) Darneille, and his grandson, Pano; his brothers, Albert (Kathleen) Griscti Soler, Anthony (Carmelina) Griscti Soler, Patrick (Odette) Griscti Soler; his sister Claudia (Godfrey) Sant; and many nieces and nephews. He will be dearly missed by his loving family, his SDEC family, his medical colleagues, and his many patients.

Dear Lord grant him eternal rest. Amen.