

Tribute to Dr. Marc Favreau

By Jean-Pierre Pelletier, MD, FRCPC; and Johanne Martel-Pelletier, PhD

It is an honour and privilege to write a tribute in memory of a cherished friend of more than forty years, Dr. Marc Favreau, who regrettably passed away on August 25, 2022. Marc was a dedicated colleague and an outstanding rheumatologist, and in all the roles he was known for, he stood out as exceptional.

Dr. Favreau graduated from McGill University in 1971 with an MDCM (*Medicinæ Doctorem et Chirurgiæ Magistrum*) degree. He completed his training in internal medicine (1975) and rheumatology (1978) at the University of Montreal. Our professional and personal lives crisscrossed while he was completing his training in rheumatology, and our families began to build close ties, which remain today. His passion for rheumatology was contagious to the extent that he convinced us both to pursue a career in the field of rheumatology: Jean-Pierre as a rheumatologist and both of us (Jean-Pierre and Johanne) as researchers.

After completing his rheumatology training, he began his career as a rheumatologist at the Hotel-Dieu Hospital in Montreal and quickly became Head of this discipline. He was instrumental in recruiting several new rheumatologists and building the teaching and training program for fellows, trainees, and students. He was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine in 1979 in recognition of his outstanding dedication to teaching. He was actively involved in the growth of the fellowship program and dedicated to maintaining it to the highest standard. His commitment to pre- and post-graduate teaching was exemplary. He always enjoyed meeting with students for teaching sessions to ensure they would have the best knowledge in rheumatology. The students also enjoyed his teaching, which centred on the bedside. Moreover, and quite challenging, he insisted that the trainees be up-to-date with the latest medical and scientific advances in the field.

Peers appreciated him for his exceptional competence as a clinician and diagnostician. For example, among many, he always kept the patient at the forefront of his practice, ensuring they were treated with the highest respect and received the best possible care. In addition, he was exceptionally skilled at establishing close contact with his patients and ensuring they understood all the issues related to their disease and treatment.

He firmly believed that arthritic patients deserved and should benefit from the latest and best scientific advances. In collaboration with his colleagues, he zealously supported many new clinical research projects within the Rheumatology Division, which he believed were vital to improving patient care.

Marc was also deeply involved in several academic activities, including being an examiner for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the specialties of dermatology and rheumatology from 1980 to 1990. He was actively involved as an organizer and participant in numerous continuous medical education (CME) programs throughout his career, being a member of the Board of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) from 2000 to 2012. His exceptional devotion to the rheumatology community was acknowledged in 2003 when he received the prestigious Marie-Thérèse Fortin Award from the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology.

There was much more to Marc over and above the fact of being a loyal friend, esteemed colleague and academic rheumatologist. He was also a loving husband for 56 years to his wife Carole, a caring and proud father of three sons, and, more recently, a devoted grandfather to three grandchildren. Although his family was always the centre of his life, he was also involved in his community. He coached teenage hockey players for many years. One of his greatest pleasures was sharing dinner with family and friends.

Being part of Marc's and his family's life was a privilege. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by those who knew this warm, generous, and kind-hearted man.

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