

Richard D. Todd, 1951–2008

Richard D. Todd, PhD, MD, the Blanche F. Ittleson Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, died of leukemia on August 22, 2008. He was 56.

For almost 25 years, Dr. Todd devoted his life to research on the genetic and environmental factors that influence child psychiatric disorders. He and his colleagues published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers in the scientific literature, spanning studies in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism spectrum conditions, and childhood affective disorders. He was supervising large-scale twin-family studies on a number of these disorders at the time of his death. He will be remembered by his peers for his sharp intellect, his incredible creativity, his ability to design experiments that answered some of our field's most important questions, and his capacity to synthesize information from disparate

disciplines into sophisticated working models of mind, brain, and behavior in children. In addition to being a basic laboratory scientist, he was also an outstanding author, clinician, and teacher. He mentored a number of the best young scientists in the field of child psychiatry, many of whom are in leadership positions today. He selflessly shared with and supported his trainees to assure their development in order to cement the future of neuroscience in child psychiatry.

Richard's compassion and respect for his patients, their families, and the adverse life circumstances incurred by psychiatric illness was a constant, and that compassion was channeled into a deep commitment to the advancement of science. He lived by the long view that contributing to science would ultimately do the most good for the children affected, and throughout the course of his illness never broke step with that agenda. Until his last days (whether at home, at his desk, or in his hospital bed), he could be seen writing, planning, conferring,



and teaching. To our field he has left a rich and lasting legacy of scientific discovery and new insight, as well as a legion of physicians and scientists whom he trained or with whom he collaborated over the course of his distinguished career. He will be deeply missed by our field, and especially by the many who knew him well.

John N. Constantino, M.D.
and James J. Hudziak, M.D.