

Paul Robert Scherer, a Professor of Biomechanics who ran ProLab Orthotics, created the Podiatry Plan Organization and founded the podiatry service at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, died Sunday at the age of 72 in San Francisco.

The cause was pancreatic cancer, which had been discovered just 10 days earlier.

He passed on his passion for lower extremity biomechanics to hundreds of students, residents and practitioners whom he taught in classrooms, domestic or international meetings and countless other venues. He authored the textbook "Recent Advances in Orthotic Therapy" to assist practitioners in making critical clinical decisions based upon current evidenced based research.

He was the creator and organizer for ten years of the PFOIA International Biomechanics seminars. He brought the best minds from around the world every year to teach podiatrists and other foot-health professionals the latest theories, research and practical techniques on foot and lower extremity biomechanics and foot orthosis therapy.

Born on The Hawk, an island on the southern tip of Nova Scotia, Canada, he was adopted and raised by Sadie and Bernard Scherer in Irvington, New Jersey. He attended Seton Hall and the California College of Podiatric Medicine, where he began teaching shortly after graduation. Over a 27-year career at the school, he served as the director of the Department of Podiatric Surgery and the director of the Department of Biomechanics.

In 1976, at the age of 30, he was appointed the youngest academic dean in the school's history. He also worked in private practice for 16 years serving the low-income community in the Bayview neighborhood of San Francisco.

He created Health Plans Organization of California, also known as Podiatry Plan Organization, in 1982 to provide podiatric health insurance in the state. In 1989, he founded ProLab Orthotics/USA, an orthotics lab now based in Napa, Calif.

He founded Israel's first podiatric medicine program in 1986 at Hadassah Hospital Ein Kerem in Jerusalem, which brought doctors from the United States to train Israeli physicians. He served on the board of trustees of the American Physicians Fellowship, an organization devoted to assisting Israeli doctors, starting in 1987. He was the organization's president from 2011 to 2013.

He is survived by his wife Anne, three sons, David, Michael and Jeremy, and five grandchildren, Random, Arkadi, Scarlett, Oren and Clementine. He was loved by his nephews and niece, Robin, Gavin and Hilary, and by an extended loving family in Nova Scotia. In his final days, he was visited by many colleagues and former students who said he had changed their lives.

Contributions may be made to a scholarship fund he set up at Camp Tel Yehudah in Barryville, NY, which he attended as a child. Please send donations in the memory of Paul Scherer to the Anabelle Argand Scholarship Fund c/o Camp Tel Yehudah, 575 8th Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10018 or at <http://www.telyehudah.org/give/>