

## In memoriam of Dr. Bud Weiner

Dear Colleagues,

Dr. Stuart (Bud) Weiner, a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Thomas Jefferson University since 1997, passed away on 6 April 2022 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was 75 years old.

Dr. Weiner directed the ultrasound and genetics programs and served as a consultant in Maternal-Fetal Medicine to many hospitals and universities.

He dedicated his career to teaching women's health and to working to improve global health in many underserved areas in Africa, South America, and Asia, all while inspiring his students, residents, and fellows to develop research projects and to present and publish their results.

Bud was a great mentor and friend. I first met him in 1993, during my fellowship in paediatric cardiology, under Dr. Jim Huhta (I was supported by Kosciuszko Foundation). This was an extremely exciting time, when the field of fetal cardiology was born. With the support of Dr. Weiner and Dr. Huhta, I was able to attend the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology World Congress in Las Vegas to present our findings [1-3].

On 11 September 2001, I was in Philadelphia again for a short visit to participate in a conference at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. On Tuesday morning, I was just about to leave the hotel for the airport, when I realized that the airport was closed down and the streets were filled with sirens from ambulances and police.

On that day 2977 people were killed in the deadliest terrorist attack in American history. It was shocking. Two planes, hijacked by Islamic jihadists, vowing death to all Americans, ploughed into both towers at the World Trade Centre in New York. Another plane was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth plane, presumably heading for the White House or the U.S. Capitol, was heroically diverted by passengers and ended up crashing in an empty field in Pennsylvania. After reports of the first plane hitting the North Tower, millions, in-



cluding me, watched the second plane hit the South Tower on live television.

It was a terrifying event. Fortunately for me, I had Bud Weiner's phone number, and I called and told him I was stranded in the street with my suitcase and the airport was closed down. He responded immediately that he would pick me up, as well as two of my Polish fellows. This way, my two fellows and I found comfortable shelter immediately after the 9-11 tragedy. This help for us was shared later on also by Dennis Wood and his family.

No one knew at that time what our future would be in America or Europe, or how long we would have to prolong our unexpected stay in Philadelphia. Bud and his wife, Elisabeth, helped us not only to survive but also to not lose hope. Our friendship lasted for many years after I returned to Poland, and Bud was always patient to correct our manuscripts written in English and to share his ideas with us [4-7].

In 2015, we published "Recommendations for fetal echocardiography in singleton pregnancy" [8] and in the following year the recommendations for fetal echocardiography in twins [9]. And in 2018, we co-authored a very interesting observational study on the assessment of nasal and oral flow amniotic fluid in fetuses [10].

In 2014, Bud Weiner accepted our invitation to come to Poland and to give a lecture, entitled "Maternal diseases and fetal heart assessment" during the Polish Ultrasound Congress in Krosno (South of Poland).

There are people on our life's path who are not only important but who open new doors for us and allow us to stand on their shoulders so that we might look farther. Such a man was Bud Weiner. Without his helping hand and without his open mind and caring friendship, I would not be where I am today.

So, I am sending my prayers to Elizabeth and her family and extending my heartfelt thanks to her and to them for sharing Bud with us.

**Prof. Maria Respondek-Liberska**

President of the Polish Prenatal Cardiology Society  
Lodz, Poland, 1 June 2022

### Selected publications with Bud Weiner and Maria Respondek-Liberska

1. Respondek M, Huhta JC, Weil SR, Godmilow L, Donnenfeld A, Weiner S. Prenatal congenital heart disease and coexisting fetal anomalies. 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress on Ultrasound in Obs & Gyn, Las Vegas, USA. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol* 1993; 3: 155.
2. Smith S, Respondek M, Ludomirsky A, Weil-Chalker S, Weiner S, Huhta J. Fetal congenital heart disease: perinatal management. 14th Annual Meeting of the Society of Perinatal Obstetricians, Las Vegas, USA. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1994; 170: 362.
3. Smith S, Respondek M, Ludomirsky A, Weil-Chalker S, Weiner S, Huhta J. Fetal congenital heart disease: perinatal management. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1994; 170: 362.
4. Wood D, Respondek-Liberska M, Puerto B, Weiner S. Perinatal echocardiography: Protocols for evaluating the fetal and neonatal heart. *J Perinat Med* 2009; 37: 5-11.
5. Respondek-Liberska M, Szymkiewicz-Dangel J, Tobota Z, Maruszewski B, Slodki M, Seligman NS, Weiner S. *Polkard Prenatal: A National Pro-*

- gram to Improve Diagnosis and Outcome of Congenital Heart Defects. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Annual Clinical Meeting, San Francisco, California, May 15-19, 2010.
6. Słodki M, Moszura T, Janiak K, Sysa A, Seligman NS, Weiner S, Respondek-Liberska M. The three vessel view in the fetal mediastinum in the diagnosis of interrupted aortic arch. *Ultrasound Med Biol* 2011; 37: 1808-1813.
  7. Słodki M, Szymkiewicz-Dangel J, Tobota Z, Seligman NS, Weiner S, Respondek-Liberska M. The Polish National Registry for Fetal Cardiac Pathology: Organization, diagnoses, management, educational aspects and telemedicine endeavors. *Prenat Diagn* 2012; 32: 456-460.
  8. Respondek-Liberska M, Sklansky M, Wood M, Słodki M, Weiner S. Recommendations for fetal echocardiography in singleton pregnancy in 2015. *Prenat Cardio* 2015; 5: 28-34.
  9. Leszczyńska K, Preis K, Respondek-Liberska M, Słodki M, Wood D, Weiner S, Gembruch U, Rizzo G, Achiron R, Pruetz JD, Sklansky M, Cuneo B, Arabin B, Blickstein I. Recommendations for fetal echocardiography in twin pregnancy in 2016. *Prenat Cardio* 2016; 6: 6-15.
  10. Zieliński R, Respondek-Liberska M, Weiner S. Assessment of nasal and oral flow amniotic fluid in 46 non-anomalous fetuses with sonographic and echocardiographic examination. *Ginekol Pol* 2018; 89: 316-320.