

else.” His longtime and dear friend Marilyn Miller agrees and wishes she could have John’s take on current Chicago politics, stating “he would have some colorful reaction . . . with a sting in its tail.” Both Burt Kushner and Steve Christiansen recall his love for his baby blue VW beetle. Steve actually broke the passenger seat, causing great consternation, and Burt recalls that when John finally had to get rid of the car, he “mourned like most people only mourn a spouse or beloved pet’s passing.” John was a wonderful mentor to hundreds of residents and fellows. Steve Christiansen rightly states that John’s “greatest gift to his fellows was the early and undeserved trust and respect he gave us that allowed us to flourish when we felt at greatest risk of foundering.” His former Columbia colleague Michael Chiang “marveled at the range of his knowledge” and how John was “so enthusiastic about learning new skills even at age 72.” One of his favorite BPEI residents recalled

that John might seem intimidating at first but was “really a big teddy bear” when you got to know him.

For seven years I had the wonderful honor and pleasure of working alongside John Flynn. He was one of the most gifted, thoughtful, creative, and caring men I have ever met. Despite his amazing contributions and international prominence, he was unfailingly humble and incredibly generous to his students and younger colleagues. John is survived by his wife Roseanne, children Tom (also an ophthalmologist) and Ellen (a primary care physician), and numerous grandchildren. They, as well as his ophthalmologic family, shall miss him deeply, and are forever grateful for the blessing of having him in our lives.

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD

John Little



Dr. John Milton Little passed away in June 2018, just over 35 years since we crossed paths when he accepted me to work in his department at the Montreal Children’s Hospital for my final year of residency. He was to become

a lifelong friend and supporter of my career in his home town of Halifax, Canada. Indeed “JML,” as he was known to his closest colleagues, moved from Halifax to McGill university for his medical and ophthalmology studies before spending three years at University of Florida, where he worked under icons like Kaufman and Flynn to become a pediatric ophthalmologist with a subspecialty in retina. He returned to Montreal and to a long and pioneering career in that field at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, where he quickly became chief of service. That is where I met him and quickly was exposed to what was already known as the JML influence! Irishman that he was, John had a deep sense of what was right and needed to be done for his young patients. He had no time for delays or nonsensical red tape to accomplish his mission; that’s how, for example, he convinced his hospital to acquire the first ocutome in Canada to perform “modern” cataract surgeries on infants in the early ’80s. Not satisfied to respond to local professional needs, John even tirelessly made trips to other cities to help colleagues. He was more than a superb clinician: he was a community leader among his medical school graduates, in the Irish Montreal community, and in the Canadian pediatric ophthalmology community. Some would have said JML was tough. I would say he was engaged—fully so, to his last fiber. He had a big heart and a wonderful smile that let it show; and those who knew him well will attest of that, be they parents, or trainees, or colleagues. We miss him.

G. Robert La Roche, MD, FRCSC