

Eulogy for Dr. Arthur Roland Dick

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First of all thank you Julie and Jeff and Amy and Steve for allowing me to say a few words about my friend Art Dick. For those of you who do not know me, I am Rick Barohn, and I worked with Art at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) from 2001 until Art retired in 2019. We all know the Art Dick story and about his family's migration from Canada to the US. And how Art ended up at Bethel College as a student and met Betty and how Art forever more became a Kansan. And we know after Art completed medical school in Maryland and time in the Army as a researcher, he and Betty settled in Prairie Village and Art began his amazing career as a neurologist at the University of Kansas Medical Center where he had a storied 50-year career retiring as a Professor Emeritus.

We know Art was a leader in the field of neurology, especially in the areas of stroke and muscular dystrophy.

And we know he was a pillar of the academic community at KUMC and had many, many important administrative positions over his long career.

And we know what a wonderful physician he was to thousands of grateful patients and what a wonderful teacher he was to thousands of medical students and residents.

But let me tell you all about three things about Art and me you may not know.

First, I met Art Dick when I did a neurology rotation at KUMC under him and Dr Ziegler in either 1978 or 1979. I was a University of Missouri Kansas City (UMKC) student and was thinking about a neurology career. The neurology department at KUMC then was really outstanding under the leadership of Dewey Ziegler and Art Dick. I was in awe of both of them. It was here I first witnessed Art's presence as both a leader in the field and for being an amazing physician and teacher. My one-month rotation with Art solidified my intention to pursue neurology as my career.

Second, in 2001 I arrived at KUMC to be the new department chair. The department had been struggling for over a few years and I was brought into bring new energy and ideas. I did a financial evaluation of the department and found the doctors could find ways to improve the department's finances. As a young 45-year-old chair with little experience, I put in Art's annual evaluation something about how he could help, and the next thing I knew he

and I were summoned to the Dean's office. The Dean proceeded to give us a lecture on productivity and the only thing I could think of was "what have I done!!". This is my hero in neurology and because of my junior chair mistake on what I put in his annual evaluation. Art was called to the principal's office! But Art never said a word about it to me. He and I continued as partners in the department for almost 20 years, working side by side in the Muscular Dystrophy Clinic. I of course never brought it up either, but it was one of the early administrative mistakes I made. And I learned from that mistake and always kept in mind the proper way to treat our senior physicians with respect—both for their sake and because one day you will be a senior physician! I had planned to reminisce with Art about this during my planned visit with him in October but that visit never happened. I did talk to Art on the phone about a week before I was to come to Newton. We were so looking forward to catching up. He wanted to meet me to meet all of his friends in the men's social club. He told me this group of men solved all of the problems of the world every Thursday morning and I was looking forward to meeting them. I am glad I am getting to say hello to many in that group today who are here.

The third story is how Art and I have stayed connected since he moved to Newton and I moved to Columbia, Missouri. When I left KUMC in 2020 I had just started a new neurology journal called Rick's Real Neuromuscular Friends Neuromuscular Journal. I asked Art if he would be willing to be a reviewer of articles and he said "yes". Art became my most reliable reviewer. I could always count on him to be the nice reviewer who could give the young authors constructive and solid advice on how to make the article better. I was still sending Art articles in just the last couple of months, and we talked about this during our call in October. I would hear from Julie how much he enjoyed it when I sent him an article to review, and he would get help from the local librarian at the local medical center to pull the relevant new articles on whatever the submission was about so he would be knowledgeable about the topic. I believe Julie would help him with the on-line submission portal which he learned how to negotiate but he wanted to make sure his comments got back to me without glitches. Art really cared that he did a productive, valuable review and that it got turned in on time and they always were.

Well, those are my three anecdotes about my beloved friend Arthur Dick. Art we all miss you so much already, but I know I and thousands and thousands of medical colleagues, students, residents, patients and their families feel so very privileged that we had you in our lives. God bless you, Arthur Roland Dick.



Dr. Dick and the neuromuscular team from the University of Kansas Medical Center at the annual Carell-Krusen Neuromuscular Symposium in Dallas, Texas. The KUMC group made an annual pilgrimage to Dallas for this great meeting. One of the highlights was eating contraband tacos from Taco Cabana from my rental car's trunk. The hospital would not let me bring in food from the outside, so every year we improvised and had our own breakfast in the parking lot before the meeting started. Dr. Dick loved this ritual.



Dr. Dick, myself, and Dr. John Redford on television for the old-fashioned annual MDA telethons for muscular dystrophy in the early 2000s.