We mourn the untimely passing of Alan Gewirtz, a member of the JCI Editorial Board, who died on November 17, 2010, at the age of 61.

Alan received his undergraduate degree from Colgate University, where, in keeping with a lifelong interest in the world around him, he majored in marine biology. After graduating from SUNY Buffalo Medical College and completing a medical residency at The Mount Sinai Hospital (New York, New York, USA), he went to Yale University for clinical training in hematology and oncology. While at Yale, he worked with Ron Hoffman, Ed Cadman, and Ed Benz to make seminal contributions to the field of megakaryocyte developmental biology. Later, as an independent researcher at Temple University, and then at the University of Pennsylvania, Alan pioneered the use of antisense RNA technologies for the treatment of leukemia, ultimately extending this work to a more global application of oligonucleotide therapeutics for treating stem cell disorders.

Alan’s extraordinary scientific accomplishments were well known and deservedly well recognized. His research was published in journals such as Science, Nature Medicine, Nature Genetics, PNAS, The Journal of Experimental Medicine, Blood, and, of course, the JCI. He was elected to membership in both the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He served on numerous national and international scientific advisory committees and reviewed manuscripts for more than 25 scientific journals. Alan managed to do all this while still being an active clinician. He was repeatedly recognized both locally and nationally for his expertise in the treatment of hematologic malignancies. So devoted was Alan to his patients that he essentially refused to schedule social engagements (at least with either of us) when he was attending, because he invariably was at the hospital until far past normal dinner hours.

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