

Combined Classical Hematology Medical Ground

Rounds Lecture Presents

The 3rd Annual David J. Kabakow Lectureship

Featuring

Joe Rocco, M.D.

**Associate Clinical Investigator and
Chief of the HLH and Hyperinflammatory Syndromes Unit at the
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**

**“Evolving understanding of the pathogenesis and management
of HLH”**

Tuesday, October 27

**12 pm to 1 pm
(via Teams)**

HLH is a severe hyperinflammatory syndrome with high morbidity and mortality in adults. It was originally described in infants and young children but is increasingly recognized as a disease in adults. David Kabakow passed away from HLH at the age of 23.

See the other side of this flyer to learn more about David in a brief

message from the Kabakows.

Today's lectureship was created in memory of our son, David, who died of HLH at 23 years old. We would like to share little bit about him, his interests, and his accomplishments.

David Joseph Kabakow was born on March 17, 1992, on St. Patrick's Day. As he got older, he would ask if the St. Patrick's Parade was for his birthday. David was an only child, loved to talk, and was very comfortable talking to adults. He spent his summers in day camp until he was old enough for sleepaway camp. He went to Camp Echo Lake as a camper, a CIT, and then as a Counselor. Echo Lake was his home away from home. He was involved in all the activities, especially in theatre. He loved to act and was always cast in their shows. In memory of David, Camp Echo Lake placed a plaque in the Theater Department.

During David's teens, he volunteered as a Student Aid at his Temple Religious School for a few years. In his memory, we have established the David J. Kabakow Aid of the Year Award for the most deserving graduating senior who best fulfills the qualities that David exhibited.

From an early age, David was obsessed with Real Estate. When he graduated from Westfield High School, he won the Best Business Student of the Year Award. He got his NJ Real Estate license when he was 18 and then passed his NY real estate license exam. He was very street smart and even sold a house while at American University. During his college years, he was a founding member of the Fraternity ZBT (Zeta Beta Tau), spent a semester in London, and was the President of the American University Gospel Choir. David also had two real estate internships in New York City. Given that he was only 23 years old, we are grateful that he lived life and got the chance to do the things that he loved.

On August 3, 2015, David woke up not feeling well, so he stayed home in bed instead of commuting to NYC. He went to urgent care with a fever of 103.5 and a bad cough. The doctor reassured us with the use of a chest x-ray, which showed a small spot on his lung indicating "walking pneumonia," and was sent home with antibiotics and told to rest. Within 12 hours after returning from Urgent Care, David was rushed to Overlook Hospital because he couldn't breathe. We were told that he had "double pneumonia," developed ARDS (Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome), and his body was beginning to shut down. Overlook Hospital was in touch with Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, who was coming to get him with a team of doctors and nurses to be put on an ECMO machine. David was put into a medically induced coma and quickly transferred to the hospital where they could better treat him.

After 2 ½ weeks of various tests while he was in a coma, David's health began to decline. Finally, they did a bone marrow biopsy and confirmed that he was suffering from HLH. Treatment protocol began immediately, and we hoped and prayed for a positive response. David began to respond to the treatments after 6 weeks and made enough progress to be taken off all life support. He was brought out of his coma and moved out of the ICU.

After spending 9 weeks in the hospital, David was finally able to come home and continue the treatment of HLH, which included chemotherapy. Although we knew that we had a long road ahead of us, we were optimistic about David's recovery. David was home for 16 days while still going back to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital for chemotherapy. Unfortunately, he had low oxygen levels after his last chemotherapy treatment and was re-admitted to the Hospital. David passed away in less than 24 hours. His immune system was too fragile to fight any infection.

David was a wonderful son who was a kind, loving, sweet, caring young man and should have had his entire life ahead of him to enjoy. He was taken away from all those who loved him, way too soon. We miss David every second of every day. In his memory, the David J. Kabakow Foundation has established an endowed lectureship at Brigham and Women's Hospital to widen the medical community's knowledge about HLH. The hope is for a quicker diagnosis resulting in quicker treatment and hopefully better results.

— Robin and Mark Kabakow