Morton Albert Stenchever, MD

Morton Albert Stenchever passed away in his sleep on January 21, 2015. He was born on January 25, 1931, in Paterson, New Jersey. At the age of only 16 years, he graduated from high school, demonstrating early in life his outstanding intellectual qualities. After undergraduate education at New York University, he graduated from medical school at the University of Buffalo as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in 1956. The University of Buffalo awarded Professor Stenchever the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001.

After his internship at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York, Dr. Stenchever completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center under the guidance of Professor Howard C. Taylor Jr, followed by military service at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. After the completion of military service, Captain Stenchever, MD, commenced his illustrious academic and clinical career in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. During his tenure at the Case Western Reserve University from 1962 to 1970, he was one of the pioneers of urogynecology, male infertility, and prenatal genetics, and he continued to advance and promote these subspecialties throughout his career. In 1970, Dr. Stenchever was appointed Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Utah University, and in 1977 he relocated to Seattle where he was appointed Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Washington. Over the years in his large clinical practice, Professor Stenchever became known for his ability to manage the most challenging surgical cases, thus advancing the field of pelvic reconstruction. In 1996, he stepped down as Chairperson and 2 years later retired from the University.

During his career, Professor Stenchever published more than 130 peer-reviewed articles. He was a co-author of four editions, and in 2001, the first author of the classic textbook *Comprehensive Gynecology* (published by Mosby). He also wrote numerous chapters in textbooks and was the series editor for the six-volume *Atlas of Clinical Gynecology* (published by Appleton and Lange). During his long-standing association with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, he was the Associate Editor of the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology* for 16 years. In 2002, he became the founding Editor of *Clinical Updates in Women’s Health Care*, a monograph series of primary and preventive care issues that relate to the office practice of obstetrics and gynecology; at the same time he was appointed Editor of the *Clinical Review*, a literature review periodical. He was also the founding chair and Editor of PROLOG. Through his many editorial functions he became known for his thorough analytical skills, close interaction with the authors, and his own vast experience and wisdom infused in his daily work.

Professor Stenchever was a member of many professional organizations. He contributed to the growth of and provided leadership to the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics, the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the National Board of Medical Examiners. Since 2006, he was the Chair of a committee of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics that was involved in the development of standard training requirements for urogynecologists worldwide. Most recently, he served as a consultant to The Howard G. Buffet Foundation for the Family Planning Fellowship. In 2013, after completely retiring from medical professional activities, Professor Stenchever continued his prolific literary career by publishing lay short stories.

He and his wife of more than 40 years, Diane, had three sons, Michael, Marc, and Douglas, and eight grandchildren. After Diane’s passing in 1999, he met and married his second wife, Luba, who brought much joy to his life along with her three children, Andy, Emily, and Lisa, and ten more grandchildren. Mort, as he was lovingly addressed by his relatives, friends, and closest peers, and Luba frequently enjoyed traveling, music, opera, and their talented grandchildren.

Professor Stenchever’s students, residents, fellows, and colleagues revered him as a mentor, educator, outstanding clinician and surgeon, and brilliant writer. He was a giant in the field of obstetrics and gynecology and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He will be missed by all.

Raul Artal, MD