

Jeffrey S. Nye, MD, PhD



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Jeffrey Nye M.D., Ph.D. Jeff was a tremendously enthusiastic and committed member of the ASENT leadership. He chaired the Development Committee and, even in the last months of his life, continued to reach out to his extensive professional and personal network to successfully spread the word about this organization and to encourage involvement. Jeff was a delightful man—highly intelligent, incisive and decisive, generous, kind and funny. His passing is a loss not only to ASENT, but to the entire community of those working to bring neurological therapies to patients in need. In his honor, the ASENT Leadership Fund to support annual meeting scholarships to basic and clinical neuroscientists will be renamed the Jeffrey Nye M.D., Ph.D. Leadership Fund. For more information about Jeff's many professional accomplishments, please see the tribute below from his colleagues at Johnson and Johnson Innovation.

Martha Morrell, MD
ASENT President

It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the death of Jeff Nye, MD, PhD, Vice President Neuroscience Innovation and Scientific Partnership Strategy at Johnson & Johnson Innovation. Jeff had been bravely managing a serious health matter for the past year, and on Monday, March 6, 2017 he passed away at home. Jeff was 57 years old. His beloved wife, Miriam Chaloff, was by his side, and his sons, Maxwell and Leo Nye, were with their father throughout his illness. Jeff was not only a brilliant neurologist and neuroscientist, but he was a highly respected academic and adjunct Associate Professor of Pharmacology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

It is hard to fathom the magnitude of this loss to our community. All of us who were lucky enough to have worked with Jeff know that he represented the very finest ideals in science. He was extraordinarily dedicated, passionate about his work, intelligent, and curious. Jeff always pushed forward in our joint quest to learn more and to share all that was discovered. He relentlessly questioned the status quo. His passion was instrumental to the global launch of the Johnson & Johnson Innovation Centers, and he provided astute guidance to the investment teams on behalf of the Neuroscience Therapeutic Area.

He also led the formation of many productive scientific collaborations with universities and research consortia, and truly advocated for advancement of science in academia through many sponsorships and philanthropy. Jeff previously held several roles at Janssen R&D, including Chief Medical Officer of the East Coast Research and Early Development unit, Vice President of Experimental Medicine, and Vice President of CNS Development.

While at the Early Development unit, Jeff oversaw all experimental medicine work, which ultimately led to two new drugs entering the market, and he directed truly outstanding research on other compounds, including in the areas of gastrointestinal medicine and pain. Of note, the early development work for INVOKANA® (canagliflozin, SGLT2 inhibitor) was done under Jeff's direction. His work during this time also led to successful out-licensing strategies and results.

Prior to joining Janssen, he served as a Director of CNS Discovery at Pharmacia. Before joining the industry, Jeff was a tenured Associate Professor of Molecular Pharmacology, Biological Chemistry, and Pediatrics (Neurology) at Northwestern University. His professional life was marked by tireless service to the larger scientific community, by a desire to ask and answer important scientific questions and, above all, to make a real difference with his research. He was, not surprisingly, the recipient of numerous awards recognizing not only his scientific acumen but his dedication to improving the health of people worldwide. Jeff will be missed most acutely by his loving family but also by his many admiring colleagues, both here at Janssen and at Johnson & Johnson and in the larger neuroscience community.

We have lost an important and beloved family member. We will all work hard to commemorate the legacy of his life and research in a meaningful manner, most especially by continuing our own research into reducing the burden of these devastating illnesses, a cause that meant so much to him.

All of us who knew Jeff appreciated his extraordinary intellect, boundless energy, and focused quest to move the science forward to help people all over the world be healthier. We will all miss him very much.

Jeff's funeral was held Thursday, March 9 at 10 am at Congregation Beth El, 375 Stony Hill Road, Yardley, PA 19067.

Donations in Jeff's honor can be made to The Fund for Johns Hopkins Medicine, Solomon H. Snyder Research Fund, 750 East Pratt Street, 17th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Please note that the Johnson & Johnson Employee Assistance Program (1-800-471-1900) offers counseling for those who may want to talk with a mental health professional about the great loss of our esteemed colleague and friend, Jeff Nye.

Sincerely,

Bill Hait
Husseini Manji
Robert Urban

