

Dear Colleagues,

It is with immense sadness that we share the passing of Mark Podwal, MD, adjunct associate professor in the Ronald O. Perelman Department of Dermatology at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, on September 13 at the age of 79.

Dr. Podwal was known to us and the world as a bright and caring physician, dedicated educator, and an immensely talented artist. After graduating from NYU Grossman School of Medicine in 1970, Dr. Podwal completed his residency training in dermatology here at NYU Langone. From then on, he held a dual career as artist and physician, establishing a private practice on the Upper East Side, while his drawings first began to appear on the Op-Ed page of *The New York Times* in 1972.



Dr. Podwal's love and aptitude for art blossomed as a student here, having ten works titled *Portrait of Man* exhibited in our school's main hall. During his medical education, one of his posters created for Vietnam War demonstrations sold thousands of copies and his political drawings would eventually be published in his first book. While initially training as a surgeon, he was drawn to dermatology as a visual specialty that would benefit from his artist's eye.

Despite being self-taught as an artist and having no formal training, Dr. Podwal's art, which largely focused on Jewish tradition, history, and legend, has been collected by nearly 70 institutions, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Victoria and Albert Museum, Vatican Pontificia Università, Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Munich Stadtmuseum, and Carnegie Museum. He was honored as an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture, received the Foundation for Jewish Culture Achievement Award, was awarded the Gratias Agit Prize by the Czech Foreign Ministry, created a decade's worth of limited-edition posters for each Metropolitan Opera season, and has had three of his paintings selected by the Metropolitan Museum of Art as the Object of the Day for its website.

Even as he gained international acclaim for his art, Dr. Podwal continued in medicine, seeing patients and educating students. He served as a member of our voluntary faculty until his passing and for many years volunteered to teach residents in clinic. He also taught a course on Art and Medicine and received the inaugural Alumnus Medicine in the Humanities Award in 2010. You can find out more about Dr. Podwal's fascinating careers in art and medicine in an [alumni profile](#) published by NYU last year.

Dr. Podwal is survived by his wife, Ayalah, and his sons, Ariel and Michael. The family requests that donations be made to [The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity](#) in lieu of flowers.

There will never be another artist or physician quite like Dr. Podwal. He truly exemplified the art and humanity inherent in the practice of medicine. He will be missed, but, thankfully, his work will always be with us.

Sincerely,

Robert I. Grossman, MD
Dean and CEO

Steven B. Abramson, MD
Executive Vice President
and Vice Dean for
Education, Faculty, and
Academic Affairs

Seth J. Orlow, MD, PhD
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