

In Memoriam

Max Joseph Vogel, M.D.

December 29, 1915 – July 21, 2002

Max Vogel was the first family physician to embrace the practice of orthomolecular medicine in 1960. He was one of our most successful practitioners who continued against the usual odds facing physicians who practice outside the box.

During WWII, Max became a physician in the accelerated course at Queens University, following pre-clinical years at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, 1939 to 1942. He

served as Captain with Canadian armed forces in England, then volunteered for duty in the Pacific, specializing in tropical medicine at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC. In 1955, after obtaining more training in Obstetrics and Gynecology in New York, he began his practice in Calgary, where he retired in 1997.

Max fought tirelessly for causes in which he believed and when he became convinced of the value of using large doses of vitamins for treatment of the schizophrenias and other diseases he became involved in trying to educate the profession, the public and the government. Years ago, the government of Alberta announced that patients receiving vitamins would not be covered by Medicare. Max, his family and friends organized a massive effort to petition the government and after thousands of names had been submitted the government reversed the decision.

Max became so skillful in treating schizophrenic patients that I would refer

to him all the Alberta patients who approached me. For awhile he was on the associate staff of the department of psychiatry at Calgary Hospital. A new Director tried to get Max fired from the hospital because of his controversial (orthomolecular) practices. Again, Max circulated a petition which was signed by 200 staff members. I was called to give evidence at one of the board meetings. At the conclusion of this debate the Director left the hospital.



Max Vogel (right) and his wife Vera with Linus Pauling, 1991

One of his colleagues wrote to Vera, Max's wife, "Apart from Max's tremendous intellectual capacity and his enthusiasm for life and challenges, I must admit I respected him as a rebel. His reputation was of a person who constantly challenged the status quo and thankfully encouraged others to do the same. I shall miss him as an individual and also as a spirit of challenge and change." Max is survived by his wife Vera, by five children and four grandchildren."

Max was a long standing member the Board of Directors of the Canadian Schizophrenia Foundation and served on the Editorial Review Board of this Journal. He was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Society of Orthomolecular Medicine at the *Nutritional Medicine Today* Conference in Vancouver in April this year.

Good bye, Max. We, and especially the patients who will no longer have you available to help them get well, will sorely miss you,

—A. Hoffer, M.D., Ph.D., FRCP(C)