



Charles Edward Mullins, M.D.

January 15, 1932 - November 17, 2024

Saving lives was the lifework of Dr. Charles E. Mullins. A pioneer and internationally recognized leader in diagnosing and treating congenital heart disease, his focus was the treatment and correction of pediatric and congenital heart defects in the cardiac catheterization laboratory—one that bears his name to this day. It was a dream he chose early in life—a life that came to an end with his passing on Sunday, November 17, 2024.

Charles Mullins was born on January 15, 1932, and raised in Northwest Washington, D.C., where he attended public schools. Throughout his childhood, he talked of nothing else but becoming a doctor. He realized that dream in 1954, graduating cum laude in Chemistry from Princeton University and then George Washington University School of Medicine With Honors in 1958.

Arlene Francis Sutherland and Chuck were married on June 19, 1954. Because he was so driven in his medical pursuits, it took their parents to bring them to each other's attention. They soon became an inseparable team, amazing dancers and world travelers—as a result of his professional advancements.

Upon leaving George Washington University, Dr. Mullins' next five years of formal medical training were spent in the U.S. Army at Walter Reed General

Hospital in Washington, D.C., in an internship, pediatric and cardiology residencies, and a cardiology research fellowship. That resulted in his being the first and only Pediatric Cardiologist in the U.S. Army. His transfer to the Second General Hospital in Landstuhl, West Germany, made Dr. Mullins the only U.S. military Pediatric Cardiologist available to all U.S. and Canadian Armed Forces in Europe and the Middle East.

Four years later, Dr. Mullins returned to Walter Reed Hospital, became a lieutenant colonel and Assistant Chief of Cardiology, and remained there for less than two years before he was drawn to the Houston medical community in 1969. Baylor College of Medicine's Pediatric Cardiology Department became his professional home until his retirement in 2006—after training over 150 fellows while contributing to the advancement of medicine and spending countless life-saving hours in what is now known as The Charles E. Mullins, MD Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at Texas Children's Hospital.

As the principal investigator at Texas Children's Hospital in six investigational protocols for new devices in the treatment of congenital heart defects, Dr. Mullins championed the continued development and teaching of these techniques at TCH and in more than 100 medical centers in twenty-three countries, performing hands-on teaching of diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization procedures.

One of Dr. Mullins' most significant contributions to cardiac catheterization can be found in cath labs around the world. The Mullins Sheath is a specialized medical device used in cardiac catheterization. It has broad applications in interventional cardiology, including facilitating device delivery, providing vascular access for various catheters, and supporting structural heart interventions like mitral valve repair.

Commonly referred to as the Father of Modern Pediatric Interventional

Cardiology, Dr. Mullins won numerous awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from PICS (Pediatric Interventional Cardiology Symposium), the Gifted Teacher Award from the American College of Cardiology, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Angiography and Intervention, and the Founder's Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Much of the experience gained across Dr. Mullins' more than 30 years of experience lives on in over 165 peer-reviewed articles, eight book chapters, and an Atlas—a "picture book"—of 167 diagrams of congenital heart lesions.

Though Chuck was born in the DC, he lived a got-to-Texas-soon-as-he-could life. Forever in his boots, Chuck loved motorcycles, guns, beer, and Aggie Football.

In retirement, Dr. Mullins was especially thrilled and proud of his four Grandchildren. Every chance they had, Arlene and Chuck would attend dance team events, T-ball, football, track, water polo, swim meets, percussion concerts, and Boy Scout activities.

Chuck is survived by his wife of 70 years, Arlene, sons Charles Jr. and Bob (wife, Julie), daughter Sandie (husband, Charles Moger), four grandchildren, Kristine Riggs (husband, Adam), Kelley Fluty (husband, Adam), Kyle Meyers (wife, Amy), and Grant Meyers (wife, Lizzy), three step-grandchildren, John, Kate, and Stella Moger, and five great-grandchildren—with one on the way.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to The Pediatric Cardiology Department at Texas Children's Hospital or the U.S.O.

A Memorial Service celebrating Chuck's life will be held Monday, December 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM at Grace Presbyterian Church, 10221 Ella Lee Lane,

Houston, TX 77042. The Memorial Service Will Be Livestreamed at 11 AM on Monday December 2, 2024 at <https://www.facebook.com/share/19vhrHXDev/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 2. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Presbyterian Church
10221 Ella Lee Lane
Houston, TX 77042

Tribute Wall

SF

“ *Dr. Mullins was my first Dr. I was 11 months old at Texas Childrens Hospital in 1990. My mom said he was an awesome Dr. and I’m happy to know I was under his care. Now he is under the best care —In Gods Arms. Rest well Dr. Mullins, and job WELL DONE!* 🎉🕊️

Sierra F - September 10, 2025 at 09:48 PM

WO

“ *I was a patient of Dr. Mullins from the day I was born (July 4, 1973) until he ignored me and retired anyway. I can still hear his boots coming down the halls of Tx Childrens. And he is the only human who has grabbed the fat on my belly (which wasn't much back then) and said I had a year to lose those pounds. Only Dr. Mullins could get away with that. I sure loved that man!! And miss him. Funny enough, I live in Denver now and my past and current cardiologists trained under him. He definitely left a wonderful legacy.*

Wendi Peck Owen - January 16, 2025 at 10:48 PM

AJ

“ On behalf of my father, Allen Tower, Sr., myself, and all NuMED employees and family, we offer our most sincere condolences to your entire family. Chuck was instrumental in helping our little company in our early years and was a true warrior when it came to developing products to help treat children with congenital heart disease.

Chuck and Arlene were always fixtures at the PICS meeting and it was always an honor to get the chance to speak to them and to call them our friends.

He definitely left the world a much better place and while he will be sorely missed he will never be forgotten.

Allen Tower, Jr.
NuMED For Children

Allen Tower, Jr. - January 09, 2025 at 10:13 AM

RS

“ My sincere condolences to the family. Dr. Mullins took care of our daughter, Victoria, from the time she was an infant until the day of his retirement when she was in college. She was his last appointment on his last day. His handy work on her heart in the cath lab (several times) has helped to give her a better life. He holds a special place in my heart, and I know he will be missed by many. He was a true hero and warrior for the advancement of treatments for those with CHD. It was a privilege to know him. 💜

Rita Scoggins - January 01, 2025 at 10:28 AM

“ Our mentor and dear friend, Dr. Mullins, had a long and distinguished career, including serving on the faculty at Texas Children’s Hospital and Baylor College of Medicine from 1969 through 2006.

Those of us who had the good fortune to be tutored by him in Pediatric Cardiology will always be profoundly grateful for his expert and kind guidance and friendship. We deeply regret his passing. But our regret should be tempered with celebration of a full and truly outstanding life filled with exceptional accomplishments in medical research, teaching, and patient care.

*Dr Mullins was internationally renowned for his innovative work in the treatment of Pediatric and Congenital Cardiovascular disease. He is widely considered the “Father of Modern Interventional Pediatric Cardiology.” He was a talented clinical investigator and was a guiding force behind much of the medical research that has transformed the practice of Pediatric Cardiology. He authored or co-authored many scientific papers, many book chapters, and an authoritative text, *Cardiac Catheterization in Congenital Heart Disease*. He was an exceptional teacher. He trained a large number of Pediatric Cardiology fellows at Texas Children’s Hospital, and he also traveled around the world, demonstrating his techniques to fellow physicians in many countries. He was kind and patient in his guidance of trainees, and was always calm, even in challenging cases. He had a great artistic talent for diagramming complex congenital cardiac malformations. Indeed, he published a book of these illustrations, and they have achieved wide usage across the medical community. Dr. Mullins helped thousands of patients, many of whom owed their lives to his expert interventions.*

During his time at Texas Children’s Hospital, he invented the “Mullins Sheath” and pioneered the use of balloon expandable intravascular stents to alleviate congenital cardiovascular disease. These methods, originally developed at Texas Children’s Hospital, are employed on a daily basis all around world. And these are just

two of Dr. Mullins's extensive contributions to medicine. Indeed, the "sun never sets" on his legacy of innovation, for the techniques he devised are used daily on every continent, and cardiologists that can trace their training to him are busily at work every day in catheterization laboratories all around the world.

He was assisted throughout his long career by his wonderful wife of 70 years, Arlene Mullins. Arlene had superb organizational and culinary skills. She was a gracious hostess for the many colleagues and trainees that they entertained, and she was expert in coordinating travel arrangements for their many trips together.

So, we will miss Dr. Mullins but take joy in his life lived in the service of humanity. May God Bless him and all his family. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

Wes and Deidre Vick

Wes Vick - December 14, 2024 at 06:12 PM

BA

“*To family of Chuck Mullins, our unforgettable next door neighbors, Arlene, Sandy, Bobby and Chucky!! It has been a pleasure and blessing to know them all! Arlene and Chuck have been remarkable team to so many friends and family! May Chuck rest in peace and family be comforted continually!!!*

Bette and Foster Mc Arthur, and Calum, Mandi and Kami

Bette and Foster Mc Arthur - December 01, 2024 at 12:04 PM

BA

"Thanks For the Memories!"

Bette and Foster Mc Arthur - December 01, 2024 at 12:05 PM

PM

“ I trained with Chuck at TCH in the late 1980's at a time when almost all children undergoing heart surgery had a pre-operative cardiac catheterization. As fellows, we spent a lot of time in the cath lab with Chuck. We not only learned cardiac catheterizations but also learned "Chuckisms", eg. "If it doesn't work the first ten times you do it, it probably won't work the next ten times...". He was an incredibly patient teacher, mentor, and friend to all the fellows, taking a personal interest in their training, but also in their lives. These relationships continued for decades and he continued to mentor his former fellows long after they had moved on to be successful pediatric cardiologists, often following in his footsteps as interventional cardiologists. I was fortunate to spend three weeks in Saudi Arabia with Chuck and Arlene near the end of my fellowship and while I learned a lot of pediatric cardiology, I also got to experience two of the most gracious and loving people who exemplified the ideal of a committed, loving, and supportive married couple. My sincere condolences to Arlene and to all of Chuck's family on the loss of this great man and mentor. May God bless and keep you all and give you comfort in this difficult time.
Paul Seib, M.D.

Paul Seib, M.D. - November 29, 2024 at 10:54 AM

FT

“ RIP Chuck.



Frank Titus - November 24, 2024 at 02:38 PM

JM

“ I have such fond memories of Chuck visiting the Cardiology Division at Brooke Army Medical Center as early as 1970-72 when I was a Fellow and there were no pediatric cardiologists in existence at that time. It was not uncommon for our adult cardiology faculty and fellows to have to deal with cyanotic newborns and I clearly remember Chuck teaching us how to obtain vascular access via his new percutaneous techniques, He visited BAMC often throughout the 1970's and early 1980's and we became fast friends. Toni and I send our warm regards and sincere condolences to Arlene and family. He was a major mentor in my career and a great friend. I will always remember how much I enjoyed his visits!

Joseph P. Murgo - November 23, 2024 at 01:23 PM

RO

“ I enjoyed working with Dr Mullins immensely as a PA in the cath lab. Working on long cases standing in boots while wearing lead I would ask him “why not comfortable sneakers.”He replied “these boots are more comfortable than anything else”. Thank you Dr Mullins for teaching me cardiology, great bedside manner, enthusiasm for your specialty and work ethic. You always treated me like a good friend and I will always remember the great contributions you made to our patients that still carries on till this day and will for many years to come. My condolences to the family and thanks for sharing Dr Mullins with us as I know he spent many hours away from home.
Richard

Richard OBrien - November 20, 2024 at 04:13 PM

“My sincere sympathy and prayers for comfort to the family in the loss of this great person and friend whom I admired greatly. My eldest child went off to college and after 14 years of working in my neighborhood at an executive suite secretarial service, during which I did work for the son of Dr. Mullins in his work with a medical supply company, it was necessary that I start looking for employment which provided benefits. Bob Mullins suggested that I apply to TCH since his dad (Dr. Mullins) was looking for someone. So I did apply for the position and fortunately was hired, which began the most interesting, challenging, and rewarding job I have ever had, joining Sherri McSpadden, his studies secretary. Dr. Mullins was compassionate and focused on the best treatment available for his patients, and was fervent in directing that they receive the best service from the office personnel in meeting their needs when they called or came in for appointments. In those “early days” the secretaries actually typed the clinical and cath summaries from dictations, and Dr. Mullins was one of the best dictators ever. He had a vast vocabulary; and though I also have a better than average word recognizance, he could always come up with a word or phrase that I had never heard before. He was well known for his love of cowboy boots, which he cathered in during his whole career, and for his love for riding his motorcycle. As well as training the upcoming pediatric cardiologists locally, he spent part of many summers traveling to other countries and continents, teaching the new techniques and instruments to others. He not only became recognized by the rest of the world of cardiology, but brought recognition and renown to TCH as well. What he initiated has grown exponentially to today. Those years I spent working for Dr. Mullins and the catheterization team were filled with his studies and trials for expansion and development of instruments and techniques in the treatment of congenital cardiac abnormalities, not only in children but in adults as well. All in all, so much progression has been made in the 32 years since I first came here that it is mind-boggling; but a great deal initiated from the years that Dr. Mullins and TCH’s team of cardiologists engaged in pioneering new techniques, instruments,

and procedures for treatment of congenital heart disease. These developments have been graciously shared with the rest of the world as well as locally. He truly will be greatly missed but greatly appreciated for his service!

Carolyn C Carlson

Carolyn C Carlson - November 20, 2024 at 12:33 PM

FT

Carolyn, thanks for sharing!

Frank Titus - November 24, 2024 at 02:40 PM

WM

“ *I trained in Houston with Chuck Mullins in 1970-1972. He was an amazing individual and wonderful teacher. Chuck recommended that I go to Pittsburg after my training and I practiced there for 33 years. Chuck and Arlene were dear friends. My deepest condolences to the Mullins family. Bill Neches*

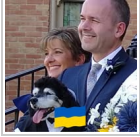
William H Neches MD - November 20, 2024 at 12:33 PM

RG

“ *1 file added to the album Charles Mullins*



Ronald Grifka - November 20, 2024 at 07:23 AM



“ As a cath fellow, I did some research with Dr. Mullins that took us on a few road trips to San Antonio. Those 5 hour trips just getting to know about his life, his background and contributions to our field were fascinating, inspiring, and at times hilarious. Some of my favorite memories of training.

He is one of the originals, one of the "greats." What is interesting was seeing him in medical conferences, where many other "greats" attended. One thing that set Dr. Mullins apart was the flock of friends, former trainees, and future trainees that would gather around him just to spend some time with one of the most giving, thoughtful, and human pediatric cardiologists I have known.

What a gift to have been trained by him, and been able to work at his side. My sincerest condolences to his family who already know, but should hear what an amazing grandfather, father, husband, brother, etc. they had.

John Breinholt - November 19, 2024 at 05:28 PM

SM

love this. Thanks for sharing

Sandie Mullins Moger - November 19, 2024 at 08:07 PM

JO

I remember Chuck as a great mentor and teacher during my stay in Houston. Jenny and I send all our sympathy to Aileen and family. He had a wonderful life. - Gregg O'Neill

Jenny O'Neill - November 23, 2024 at 11:47 PM

CC

“ Dr. Mullins and his wife were my second set of parents while growing up in Thornwood. Spending time out at the Patch riding motorcycles, shooting and playing "championship volleyball" will always be fond memories for me. He indeed will be missed by me and all who knew him.

Christopher E Cottrell - November 19, 2024 at 03:29 PM

SM

Yes, fond memories. Thanks for your condolences

Sandie Mullins Moger - November 19, 2024 at 08:09 PM

RS

“ Dr. Mullins was an awesome man and doctor. I met him 47 years ago when my son was born with a complete transposition of the great vessels. Dr. Mullins could sense my anxiety. He said , “coach, we are going to take care of you son”. And he did. We continued to see Chuck for well over twenty years. We traveled to see Dr. Mullins several times a year. In his early twenties, my son had surgery. Today, at age forty seven, he is doing great. I could never say how much Dr. Mullins means to our family. Condolences to his family and all that knew him. R.C. Slocum

R.C. Slocum - November 19, 2024 at 01:04 PM

CF

It was a privilege to work closely with Chuck Mullins for over two decades at Texas Children's Hospital. He was a fine colleague and friend. His influence on the field of pediatric cardiology was profound. He was dedicated to his patients, his colleagues and his family. He will be greatly missed.

Charles D. Fraser, Jr. ("Chuck")

Charles D. , Jr Fraser - November 19, 2024 at 02:35 PM

SM

Thank you for sharing

Sandie Mullins Moger - November 19, 2024 at 08:08 PM

SM

Love the kind words and blessings to the Slocums

Sandie Mullins Moger - November 19, 2024 at 08:08 PM

RG

It was a privilege and an honor to be taught by and work with Chuck Mullins. He was the consummate professional in every way. His attention to detail, relentless drive for perfection and passionate care for children with heart defects were unparalleled. He defined the field of interventional pediatric heart catheterization – and he had an immense impact on the adult arena also. Chuck's ideal day was to spend 12 hours in the Cath lab caring for children, all while teaching fellows and nurses, then heading home to his family in Katy. Chuck, you were the best!!! On behalf of the numerous patients and colleagues who benefitted from your compassion, teaching and excellence, many thanks. Ron Grifka

Ron Grifka - November 19, 2024 at 09:55 PM

MR

Dr. Mullins was simply the best. He was a great teacher, father figure, colleague and friend. Not just to me and Carla but to the numerous fellows and residents that were lucky enough to have been trained by him. He was the most innovative and meticulous teacher that I have ever known. To this day whenever I take a picture (angiogram) in the cathlab, I can hear Dr. Mullins in the back of my head saying "make sure you frame the image properly, use the collimators because every image that you take should be good enough for publication in a textbook or journal"

I suspect that I'm not the only one that's heard those words of wisdom from the Dr. Mullins. To me, he will always be Dr. Mullins the father of modern pediatric interventional cardiology. My condolences to Arlene and family.

Mitch Recto

Mitch Recto - November 22, 2024 at 01:38 AM

FT

Mitch, thanks for sharing this.

Frank Titus - November 24, 2024 at 02:43 PM

WO

Coach, Aggie class of 1995 here. I have a special memory of Dr. Mullins showing you the photo I took of Dat's interception at the Big 12 Championship the night of your Coach's night in Houston. Both your son and I were very lucky to have Dr. Mullins in our lives. Gig'em and Congratulations on your retirement.

Wendi Peck Owen - January 16, 2025 at 10:57 PM