

Jack's Eulogy



On behalf of Jack's family, myself his younger sister Karen, his parents Beth and Jun-bi, his wife Jane and son Eric, I would like to welcome all of you to this gathering today to pay our respects to Jack. A special thank you to friends and relatives that have travelled from China, the United States and throughout Canada to be here today we are honored that you came. Thank you for the countless messages of condolences directly to myself, Jack's family and on the web through vehicles such as Twitter and memorial pages.

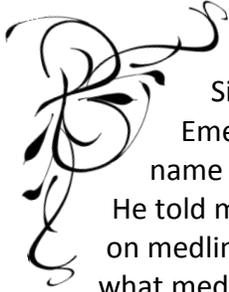
We all knew that Jack was very successful, respected and admired by many but we had no idea how broad his reach was. I think even Jack himself did not know how many people's lives he touched and how well known he was, he now even has a page on Wikipedia. Our family is now just comprehending the extent of his reputation, not just in the cardiovascular research world but also in the research world in general, not only in internal medicine and cardiology but medicine in general and even beyond medicine at the university level. Today the flag at the University of Toronto is flying at half-mast for Jack. I am certain he did not know that his stature at the University was such that he would be bestowed such an honour. Thank you to the University for honouring my brother in such a way.

Jack was born on March 1, 1965 in Taipei, Taiwan and immigrated to Canada at the age of two. Yes, he was a Chinese immigrant, a recent research area of interest for him. As a child Jack grew up in Kingston playing hockey, tennis and chess. He grew up in the era of the Montreal Canadians dynasty of players such as Ken Dryden and Guy Lafleur. I remember the recurrent Saturday night Love Boat vs Hockey Night in Canada fights for the television. Back in those days there was no such thing as a remote control and I can't remember which one of us figured out if you pulled the knob off the tv that changed the channels you could actually sit on the couch and watch the show instead of standing guard beside the tv, as long as you could keep possession of the knob. I still have visions of Jack trying to use pliers to turn the part of the channel changer that remained attached to the tv on one particular occasion when I had possession of the knob.

Another fond memory I have of Jack as a teenager was when our mother took us to Iroquois, a small town in Eastern Ontario, for a tennis tournament. Jack won the tournament and I lost in the finals. We both won trophies though, he won that big red trophy over there. I remember the local newspaper ran a story and picture and the headline for the story was 'Tu's are Tops'. That was a really fun time.

I have fond memories of watching breakfast at Wimbledon together and café and croissants for the French Open, during the Borg and McInroe era. I remember watching a brother and sister Canadian Ice dance team that skated for France at the Olympics, the Duchennys and I remember prancing around the family room with Jack emulating their moves and pretending we were them.





Since he was born he was destined to go into academia. Our father a Professor Emeritus in Psychiatry at the University of Western Ontario gave him the middle name Ven. I remember as a child wondering why he got a middle name and I did not. He told me that our dad gave him a middle name so that people would not mix them up on medline as our father has the same first initial of J. At the time I did not even know what medline was but even at a young age Jack knew and talked about the concept of publish or perish.

Like Eric is now, Jack was an outstanding student. Back then Ontario still had grade 13 and Jack finished high school in four years instead of five. He went on to the University of Western Ontario for his undergrad, where he entered medical school after only one year of undergraduate studies. I believe he was one of the youngest, if not the youngest in his class. After graduating medical school from Western he came to Toronto at the Toronto General Hospital to do his internship and residency in Internal Medicine.

I remember calling him one day in late August just after starting his internship, it was the middle of the day and he was at work I said to him hello Dr. Tu this is Dr. Tu. I know he was annoyed that I was bothering him at work and he barked what do you want. I told him I just got into med school at U of T and to make room for me because I was moving in with him. I remember him saying, oh maybe you will amount to something after all. Although you would never want to admit it to me Jack, I know you were proud of me too.

Jack's first clinical mentor was Dr.'s Ho Ping Kong, 'The Ho' as he called him, invited him to his summer home near Peterborough. I remember him being honoured to have such an invitation and as he thanked Dr. Ho Ping Kong for the invitation his response was don't thank me you are coming to do work for me, and he did go and dug holes and moved trees around the property. Jack was always respectful of his superiors and he had great reverence for Dr. Ho Ping Kong.

I remember going into ICES to visit Jack before embarking on my Masters. He introduced me to Dr. David Naylor his research mentor. I remember David saying something about me following in my brother's foot steps, and me not wanting to be in his shadow, I said no I'm a family doctor and I'm going to London not the States, I'm studying health policy and health economics, Jack looked at me and said duh what do you think I studied. The conversation went on as David witnessed our typical sibling tete a tete, and at the end of the conversation he laughed and said no one around here would dare talk to Jack that way, when you finish, if you do well, you can come back here and work here. David gave both Jack and I our starts in research and my parents are especially grateful to him for the opportunities he created for our family. Jack so admired David.

Jiming and Kevin have reached out to me over the past few days and have said to me that they knew that he was my brother but that they considered him

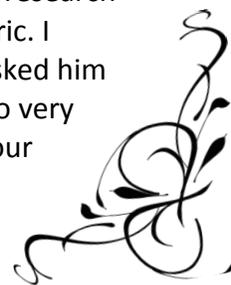


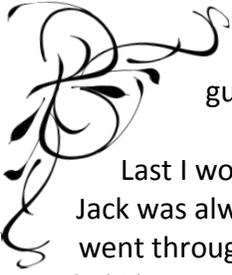


their brother as well. Gary has been so helpful. Tara and Francine have told me how they felt like he was the best boss ever and there was not anyone that they wanted to work for more than Jack. His team at ICES has told me how Jack would shield them from politics and extraneous noise, he was a protector to them. Jack would not hesitate to fire anyone he did not think was up to snuff. To his team you should know that you were his team because he thought the very best of you and held you all in very high regard. He knew you worked hard for him and part of his accomplishments has to be credited to all of you because you supported him and took care of things for him to allow him to accomplish his goals. He often talked to me about how he had the best research assistants and staff. A special thanks to Liisa and the EMERALD team for all their help and support during this and other difficult times for me.

Jack had many research accomplishments, but I know the thing he was most proud of was his son Eric. Eric had a rough start in this world. Born in the middle of SARS in 2003 when there were all these restrictions going on for visitors to the hospital. Jane recalls the day Eric was born, Jack was locked inside the hospital and my parents were locked outside the hospital. About 2 weeks after Eric was born Jack had to do a mandatory shift on the SARS ward. He credits Jane with saving his life at that time as Jane had worked in hospitals in China during infectious disease outbreaks. He wore old clothes to do his shift and afterwards he threw everything out in the garbage, even his running shoes and the 10 dollar bill in his pocket and left with just his glasses. It turned out that several of the staff on the same shift as him actually contracted SARS as unbeknownst to them there was a super spreader on the ward. When he got home he quarantined himself in the basement of his house for two weeks. Even though they told him it wasn't necessary to do so, he wasn't going to take any chances. My mother would drop off food to the top of the basement stairs for him and he would come and get it. He lived like a rat for two weeks in the basement. He would just stay there all day on the internet reading about SARS. My mother started to get concerned that he was going a little crazy, obsessing and perseverating about SARS all day long. After his self-imposed quarantine period, he came back up to join his family. Jane went downstairs and was shocked at the state of the garbage dump he lived in.

He thought the world of Eric. At Eric's young age of 15 he has already won more awards in music, Mandarin, international math Olympiad, classics and Science. These are more awards than Jack ever won at that age. Jack approached everything in his life through research and analysis. He fervently researched schools, activities and experiences for Eric. I remember questioning him on some of the things he was doing for Eric and asked him why he was doing it and his response was only the best for the best. He was so very proud of you, Eric. I'm sure you feel like these are large shoes to fit into but your dad has laid a great foundation for you and rest assured your family and your dad's friends and colleagues will always be there for you for support and





guidance.

Last I would like to speak about Jack as a son. He was and is our parents pride and joy. Jack was always a devoted and dutiful son. He gave our parents very little trouble, never went through a rebellious stage and always looked out for our parents needs. Mom and dad I know Jack was grateful for the happy upbringing you provided for us, and I know he felt very lucky to have the wonderful childhood we had. Jack, dad is sad that you won't be able to complete the project that you discussed with him on ending the smoking epidemic, that dad is so passionate about. Mom is grateful that you died quickly without suffering a long illness and although there were ups and downs Jack had a very happy life. Although he was taken in his prime our parents are grateful that he had the opportunity to become a loving husband and father and experience the great joy of watching Eric grow into such a fine young gentleman.

Rest assured Jack I will take care of mom and dad, Jane and Eric as you would have wanted me to. Rest in peace.

