

## The Legacy of Sander A. Kushner, DO, FACOFP

Dr. Sander A Kushner had a passion for Osteopathic Family Medicine and a commitment to teaching. His legacy and impact on Osteopathic Medicine is evident through the physicians whom he trained and the colleagues with whom he worked, but most importantly with the communities where he practiced.

Dr. Kushner graduated from Des Moines Osteopathic Medical School in 1960. After graduating he owned and ran a flourishing Osteopathic Family Medicine practice in the Detroit area. Rather than retire from medicine when he moved to Sutton's Bay, Michigan, he practiced Urgent Care Medicine with a focus on his patients and the community that is atypical for urgent care.

While his medical knowledge and dedication as an Osteopathic Family Physician endeared him to his patients, it was his passion and commitment to teaching that allowed him to have a lasting impact on Osteopathic Family Medicine.

Dr. Kushner started the first Osteopathic Family Medicine Residency Program in the country at Botsford General Hospital (now Beaumont) in Farmington Hills, Michigan. He was a clinical professor at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the recipient of prestigious honors and awards for his teaching and contributions to the field of Osteopathic Family Medicine.

He believed that the most important aspect of Osteopathic Family Medicine is listening to and connecting with patients regardless of the setting. He worked to instill this philosophy and his medical knowledge to residents and students.

His commitment to connecting with patients and teaching never wavered, from his private practice in the Detroit area to his urgent care practice in Sutton's Bay. Even as he approached retirement, he brought his dedication to teaching to his daughter's (also an Osteopathic Family Physician) annual medical mission to Guatemala where the members of the communities the trip visited as well as the students and residents on the trip benefited from his knowledge, compassion and teaching ability.

The ability to connect with and help his patients while making it a teaching opportunity was his greatest gift. Adored and respected by his family and countless friends, colleagues and patients, Sandy was a pillar of the medical community in Detroit and Sutton's Bay for more than 55 years.

### **Accomplishments include, but are not limited to:**

- Faculty appointments at:
  - Wayne State University School of Medicine
  - College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
  - Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
  - College of Human Medicine Michigan State University
- President of Wayne County Osteopathic Association
- Chief of Staff of Botsford-Zieger Hospital
- Founding member of the Board of Directors of Osteopathic General Practitioners of Michigan
- President of the Osteopathic General Practitioners of Michigan 1987-1988
- Board of Directors, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan