



## Dr. Witold A. "Witek" Szyfer, MD, PhD

October 5, 1954 - February 7, 2022

It is with great sorrow that the family of Dr. Witold A. "Witek" Szyfer announces his passing on February 7th, 2022. He will be remembered for his unyielding devotion to his patients, colleagues, medical community, and most especially, his adoring family.

Dr. Szyfer lived his life with the courage and accomplishment that could fill many lifetimes. He was a generous, forgiving, and wise father, son, friend, and healer. He was born October 5th, 1954 and grew up in northern Poland. His passion for medicine began at the Medical Academy of Gdansk, Poland, where he earned his medical and doctorate degrees at the top of his class. After attaining his education at an unprecedented pace, he was honored by the Academy in the most prestigious role as both Physician and Professor. Dr. Szyfer's dedication to medicine crossed continents when he immigrated to the US in the early 1990's. He treasured his role as a physician for over 42 years and faithfully served the Southern Illinois community with his healing hands and undeniably witty sense of humor for the last 20 years. His profound brilliance in medicine allowed him to direct, publish, and teach in his field. Witek healed many thousands of lives and was not only a physician, but a companion to his patients. He would tell you that laughter is still a good medicine.

From white water rafting to skiing double black diamonds, he was always up

for an adventure. He was an avid athlete and incredible soccer player and unwilling to let time slow him down. He was a world traveler speaking seven languages and spanning many continents, and shared the privilege of a broader perspective with his daughters whom joined him on many of his trips at the expense of hysterical laughter from listening to his impeccable jokes. He loved the outdoors and had an affliction for animals. He loved spending time with his grandkids to whom he could rarely say "no". He was Dr. Szyfer, Witek, Tata as known by his daughters; the man, the myth, the legend.

He is survived by his loving daughters Ania Szyfer, Maggey Szyfer, and Julia (Szyfer) Szymczak, only granddaughter Eden, and grandsons Janek and Aleksander whom brought him much pride. He is preceded in death by his mother Dominika Klawnsiuc.

A memorial mass in his honor will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marion on Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. A time of visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. until the hour of service at the church.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Crain Funeral Home-Egyptian Chapel in Energy.

The family requests friends also visit [dropevent.com/DRWITOLDSZYFER](https://dropevent.com/DRWITOLDSZYFER) or email [DRWITOLDSZYFER@dropevent.com](mailto:DRWITOLDSZYFER@dropevent.com) to share fond memories and photographs to be used in his memorial.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

FEB **16**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
600 N. Russell St.  
Marion, IL 62959

## Memorial Mass

FEB **16**. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
600 N. Russell St.  
Marion, IL 62959

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Witold A. "Witek" Szyfer, MD, PhD*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *my first time meeting Dr. Szyfer, I was working as a security officer at crossroads. At that time I was studying for my medical boards. Dr. Szyfer immediately took me under his wing, guided me throughout my long journey, then I had privilege to work with him as ECG tech, he always challenged me to better myself and to believe that I can overcome all obstacles, I shadowed him during my time at crossroads. His message was laughter is the best medicine. Dr Szyfer always had a smile in his face, it made everyone around him feel the his blessings and love.*

*Dr. Szyfer was my mentor and I will continue his legacy. Rest in peace Dr. Szyfer.*

Mumen Tageldin - May 14, 2022 at 07:45 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Witold A. "Witek" Szyfer, MD, PhD.*



February 16, 2022 at 08:12 PM

ND

“ I would like to think Dr. Szyfer and I shared a special relationship during my short time at Crossroads Community Hospital. It started out rocky, not knowing if he could trust the disaster nurses sent in by the state to assist with the staffing crisis at the Hospital. Soon after my assignment began, Dr. Szyfer's defensive, stoic walls fell as he became confident that this nurse was one he could trust to take good care of his patients. From then on, we shared stories of our families and health care experiences and even developed a shared love for the cafeteria's parfait. Dr. Szyfer even told the weirdest jokes of animal behavior, to which I would commonly respond, "no one cares Dr. Szyfer. Thats useless knowledge." There was never a dull moment working with Dr. Szyfer. He was a special man who took his work seriously and cared for the patients and their families passionately. I only worked with him for a few short weeks and I can feel the weight of his passing. My heart goes out to his family as well as the Crossroads family. My prayers are with you.

Natasha Davids-Waldo, RN  
(Dr. Szyfer's #1 IEMA Nurse)

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Natasha R. Davids-Waldo - February 15, 2022 at 12:50 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Witold A. "Witek" Szyfer, MD, PhD.



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February 14, 2022 at 10:43 AM

BB

“ I only knew him for six months, but he always made my twelve hour shifts better. He would stop up at the desk and tell jokes and ask if I had any new jokes to tell him. He even gave some of us that work registration Christmas earrings. One day he found out I was struggling to get through my work day with a migraine and called me upstairs to talk and was generally concerned about how I was doing and wanted me to check back in with him once I seen the neurologist he recommended. Then he found out my last name and looked at me confused, I said yeah it is polish, and he goes I didn't think that was American, so, we got to talking about Poland and our families being over there. He was just all around a good person and also made long twelve hour shifts better. He will definitely be missed. - Breanna Bytnar

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**Breanna Bytnar** - February 13, 2022 at 03:58 PM

CA

“ Dr. Szyfer took care of my father a few years ago. He was a wonderfully kind and caring physician. Sorry for your loss.

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**Chris Aaron** - February 12, 2022 at 04:12 PM

KS

“ Krzysztof Walczak Z Żoną I Synem lit a candle in memory of Dr. Witold A. "Witek" Szyfer, MD, PhD



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**Krzysztof Walczak z żoną i synem** - February 12, 2022 at 07:00 AM

KK

“ *Still can't believe this is true.*

*You will be greatly missed. Thank you for being you and for being there any time of the day/night.*

*Josh thought so much of you as a colleague and a friend. What a well-lived life.*

*Much love and respect- The Knolhoff's*

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**Kerby Knolhoff** - February 11, 2022 at 06:33 PM