

Reed Pyeritz, Medicine

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DEATHS

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Reed Pyeritz

Reed Edwin Pyeritz, professor emeritus of medicine and genetics in the Perelman School of Medicine, died on August 10, 2026 from interstitial lung disease. He was 78.

Dr. Pyeritz was born in Pittsburgh. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware in 1968, and a master's degree and doctorate in biological chemistry from Harvard University in 1972. He went on to receive his medical degree from Harvard in 1975 and subsequently trained in internal medicine and medical genetics at Johns Hopkins. After a decade in Pittsburgh, Dr. Pyeritz came to Penn in 2001 and spent more than two decades there.

At Penn, Dr. Pyeritz treated patients, taught students, and conducted studies on genetic testing and patient-centered care. He was the co-director of Penn Medicine's Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HTT) Program and chaired Penn's Faculty Senate during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Dr. Pyeritz's life's work was dedicated to Marfan Syndrome. He co-founded the Marfan Foundation in 1981 and the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics in 1991. His research and clinical work advanced the understanding and treatment of Marfan Syndrome, extending patient life expectancy by 30 years. His research in identifying the role of the FBN1 gene in Marfan Syndrome led to advances in the medical and surgical management of the disease. He published more than 700 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Dr. Pyeritz served as a co-editor of *Emery and Rimoin's Principles and Practice of Medical Genetics and Genomics*, and his most recent book, *Uncertain Precision: Managing Health Care with Personalized Technologies*, was published earlier in 2026. His work received honors including the David L. Rimoin Lifetime Achievement Award in Medical Genetics and the Marfan Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

Outside of his professional commitments, Dr. Pyeritz served as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps, including during Operation Desert Storm.

Dr. Pyeritz is survived by his wife, Jane Tumpson; daughters, Allyson and Abigail; granddaughters, Tallulah and Penelope; and son-in-law, Keith Hopkins.

A celebration of his work and life will take place later this year.