

William Bank, Neurology

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DEATHS

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William Bank, an associate professor of neurology in the Perelman School of Medicine, died on February 19. He was 91.

Born in 1934, in Baden, Austria, Dr. Bank was a Holocaust survivor. His father, Josef, was kidnapped during Kristallnacht and imprisoned in Dachau Concentration Camp in 1938. After being released from Dachau after five months, he fled from Austria to Shanghai. His wife, Grete, prepared to leave Austria with her young sons to escape Nazi persecution. In 1941, the three of them departed from Vienna; at just six years old, Dr. Bank left his life behind—including his grandparents—and boarded the ship *Villa de Madrid* in Spain.

William Bank

Dr. Bank arrived in the United States without knowing any English, but learned quickly while growing up in Montgomery, New York. Dr. Bank's father arrived in Montgomery after eight years. The family of four relocated to San Francisco shortly after, where Dr. Bank graduated from San Francisco Polytechnic High School in 1953. He then attended University of California, Berkeley, graduating in 1956. He received his medical degree in 1960 from the University of California at San Francisco Medical School, and interned at San Francisco County General Hospital that same year.

After Dr. Bank completed his internship at San Francisco General, he traveled to London for a clerkship at Queens Square National Hospital for Nervous Diseases. Upon his return, he decided to specialize in neurology and took his residency at UC San Francisco. Later, he became a fellow at Columbia University in New York, where he studied under neurologist Bud Rowland. In 1967, he followed Dr. Rowland to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, became an associate professor of neurology, and began a career as an academic neurologist with a focus on neuromuscular diseases. While at Penn, he served on Penn's University Committees disability board, an operating committee, from 1978-1980. In 1988, he was part of the consultative committee on the selection of a director of Penn Libraries. Six years later, Dr. Bank was one of 131 University of Pennsylvania Medical Center doctors named in the second edition of *The Best Doctors in America*.

Dr. Bank was an artist from a young age and took classes, specializing in oil on canvas. In 2001, an art show of his paintings was featured in Penn's Burrison Gallery. Dr. Bank retired from Penn and became an associate professor emeritus of neurology in 2003.

Dr. Bank is survived by his wife, Susan Sweetser; his children, William Stewart Bank, David Alexander Bank, and Greta Bank; his brother, Peter Ernst Bank; and six grandchildren, Bianca Peterman, Ruby Zuela Peterman, Kiva Sweetser Bank, Jacqui Marin Bank, Willi Zephyr Bank, and Alden Alexander Bank.