



Carol Kay Conrad

November 7, 1961 - November 28, 2024

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Carol K. Conrad, MD, amazing sister, aunt, and pediatric pulmonologist at Stanford Medicine Children's Health, passed away on November 28, 2024 at her home in Menlo Park, Calif., following a long battle with a neurodegenerative disease.

Carol was born in Denver and grew up in southern California with her older brothers Jamie and David and her younger sister Libby, who were raised in a famously clever family by their mother, Kay, and their father, Paul, a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist. Carol graduated from Rolling Hills High School in 1979 and went on to college at the University of California, Berkeley. After graduating from Cal in 1983, Carol received her medical degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1989 and trained in pediatrics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She then chose to specialize in pediatric pulmonary medicine, completing fellowship training at The Johns Hopkins University in 1995 and playing a central role in demonstrating proof-of-concept for gene therapy in cystic fibrosis.

In 1995, Carol began work at Stanford's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and worked diligently to build renowned pulmonary medicine programs. "Carol contributed in every way possible, whether it was treating patients with

bronchopulmonary dysplasia or childhood interstitial lung diseases," said David Cornfield, MD, Chief of Pulmonary, Asthma, and Sleep Medicine at Stanford Children's and a longtime colleague of Carol's. "Her research on cystic fibrosis (CF) has contributed to the development of therapeutic interventions designed to specifically treat lung disease in children and adults with CF."

As the pulmonary division grew, Carol's role expanded. She served as the director of the Pulmonary Function Lab, which brought state-of-the-art equipment that specialists could use to diagnose and treat young children and teens with many different lung or breathing conditions. Starting in 2004 she served as Medical Director of Stanford Children's Pediatric Lung and Heart-lung Transplant Program up until 2023. The program celebrated 35 years of lung and heart-lung transplants for children earlier this year.

Carol will be remembered by her patients and her colleagues as an intellectually nimble, energetic, honest, and fierce patient advocate. Both as a professor of pediatrics at Stanford School of Medicine and a physician treating young lung patients, she touched the lives of countless patients, families, trainees, and colleagues with clarity of thought and careful attention to each person.

In her personal life, Carol was a devoted aunt and sister, adventurer, traveler, early Burning Man participant as a fire dancer and house doctor, and physical fitness advocate. Her travels took her to exotic locations throughout the world, including New Zealand, Central and South America, Europe, and southeast Asia, and she was planning to go to Antarctica in early 2025. Her interest in sports began at a young age, and she became a lifelong skier and softball and soccer devotee, managing the co-ed softball team "Cha Cha Lucys" in the Stanford rec league, and helping her brother Jamie coach her niece Taylor's soccer teams.

Beginning with her adoption of an abandoned kitten she named Shermie while still an undergraduate at Cal, she became a lifelong cat owner, later making a home for her rescued kitties Julie, Toughie, and Teddy over the years. Though

proud of her Stanford affiliation, she remained an ardent Cal Bear football fan all her life, sometimes taking joy in being the only Cal fan, and a vocal one at that, in the Stanford rooting section during Big Games.

Carol will be remembered for her passion, her energy, her disgust for hypocrisy and injustice, as well as for her warmth and sense of humor. As a longtime friend said, "She was fierce, decisive, brilliant, and fearless. She was a force to be reckoned with her whole life, and certainly made her mark!"

Previous Events

Memorial

JAN 21. 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM (PT)

Stanford Memorial Church
450 Jane Stanford Way
Stanford, CA 94305

For parking instructions please [click here](#)

Reception

JAN 21 (PT)

Stanford Faculty Club
439 Langunita Dr
Stanford, CA

Reception starts immediately after mass.

Tribute Wall



“ For years, many people doubted that I would recover from Parkinson’s disease. Even when others lost hope, I refused to give up. I followed my neurologist’s recommendations and used medications such as Carbidopa, Sinemet, and Levodopa. While these treatments provided some temporary relief, my condition eventually worsened, especially by the fifth year. At that point, I decided to explore an alternative approach and tried a herbal program from EarthCure Herbal Clinic(www.earthcureherbalclinic.com). I used their treatment for four months, and over that period, I experienced a remarkable improvement in my symptoms. Today, I am grateful for the progress I have made and for discovering another option that worked for me in curing and reversing my PD and all its symptoms completely. I share my experience for those who may be considering alternative paths alongside conventional treatment or without any conventional treatment. Send them a message on "info@earthcureherbalclinic.com" to get your own treatment for any disease or virus .

Lance Jill - April 29 at 08:52 AM

MT

“ I acquired my first home at the beginning of the year. To some, lottery players appear ridiculous, while we view it as a chance for an improved future. I'm known as Megan Taylor and I have played the lottery for ten years, yet I haven't won anything substantial. In my pursuit of understanding how to win better, I was advised to consult Lord Meduza the Priest who provided me with the precise 6 numbers that helped me secure the Mega Millions jackpot of \$277 million after using his spell powers and following his guidance. Lord Meduza services is top notch and I believe your dreams aren't finished unless you decide they are. Contact Lord Meduza the Priest, and he will assist you in realizing your aspirations..

Email: lordmeduzatemple@hotmail.com

Whats-App +1 (807) 798-3042.

Website: www.lordmeduzatemple.com

Megan Taylor - January 18 at 07:07 AM

EL

“ living with Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) was a daily struggle. I constantly felt out of breath, even while resting. Simple activities like walking to the mailbox or climbing a few stairs left me drained and gasping for air. The medications I was on gave temporary relief, but the side effects made it even harder to cope. In a moment of hope and honesty, exhaustion I decided to try the herbal program from NaturePath Herbal Clinic. At first, I wasn't sure what to expect. But after a few months on the treatment, I began to notice steady improvements. My breathing became less laboured, my coughing reduced, and I felt more energetic throughout the day. What makes this program different is that it's completely natural and gentle on the body, unlike many pharmaceutical treatments I had tried in the past. I didn't experience any negative side effects, and the improvement in my quality of life has been incredible. I've now been on the program for over nine months, and my most recent checkup showed that my condition has stabilized. For a disease that doctors told me had no cure, this was more than I could have hoped for. I feel like I've been given a second chance at life. If you or a loved one is battling ILD and struggling to find relief, I highly encourage you to explore this option. It has truly made a difference in my life. their website is www.naturepathherbalclinic.com
info@naturepathherbalclinic.com

Elizabeth - July 21, 2025 at 04:25 AM

WA

“ 7 files added to the album the many travels of carol



Warren - February 13, 2025 at 01:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol Kay Conrad.

January 21, 2025 at 01:14 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Carol Kay Conrad.



January 21, 2025 at 01:14 PM

DG

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Conrad family.*

We will always remember you, Dr. Conrad, and the profound impact you had on my brother's life. We were truly blessed to have you as my brother's doctor. Your care and dedication made all the difference in his life, and we are forever grateful.



Dayana Gonzalez - January 20, 2025 at 02:10 AM

JF

“ *Julie Kim and family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Carol Kay Conrad.*



Julie Kim and family - January 17, 2025 at 07:53 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Carol Kay Conrad.*



January 14, 2025 at 01:02 PM

LG

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Laura Green - January 13, 2025 at 06:15 PM



“For those less familiar with Carol's professional career, I am copying verbatim a section of what I wrote supporting her promotion to professor at Stanford in 2022. Her life's great impact on the patients she cared for as a supremely dedicated doctor may be her greatest and undying legacy. - Dr. Rick Moss

"December 19, 2022

Dr. Conrad has become a nationally and internationally recognized leader in the selection and care of pediatric lung transplant recipients. This work has been the main but certainly not only focus of her academic efforts. She has major responsibility for this highly specialized transplant program that she has directed since 2004. It remains the only pediatric lung transplant program in the western United States; referrals come from all over the world. Besides the intense clinical responsibilities involved, she has been a main educator in the field to trainees at all levels, a collaborator in basic and clinical NIH-supported research, and increasingly a thought and organizational leader at the national and international level. Her CV reflects her academic involvement and leadership in enhancing outcomes for pediatric lung transplant sustained over a 20 year period. It would be a grave disservice, however, to focus solely upon her record and internationally recognized reputation in pediatric lung transplantation as a validation of her merit for promotion. Carol continues

to be an essential person in the broader pediatric pulmonary program at Stanford in many critical areas. These include establishing and directing our interstitial lung disease clinic and joining a national research collaborative; direction of the LPCH pulmonary function laboratory from 1998 to 2021; repeated collaborative clinical research in cystic fibrosis therapeutics including national leadership in establishing the clinical benefit of N-acetylcysteine as PI of a definitive multicenter clinical trial sponsored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; service on several departmental, hospital and extramural committees; educator and mentor in the fellowship program; and development of clinical care pathways for bronchiolitis and asthma.

A few personal observations on Carol's character as a person and physician: simply put I have never known a more devoted doctor. As someone who has worked with her both on the ward and in the clinic for many years, I have observed her extraordinary 'tough love' devotion to her patients and families, and have often witnessed the fully deserved gratitude and fierce loyalty she has received from them. As a colleague, her exacting highest standards for patient care are leavened by her sharp sense of humor and good cheer. It must be recognized that in recent years she has continued without fail in all her duties in the face of a serious, life-threatening illness which thankfully has not been able to stop her devotion to medicine, academics and above all else her patients. Carol continues to devote much time and effort to academic activities beyond Stanford. She has been an active and productive member of the California Thoracic Society, chairing its pediatric subsection. Her leadership within the national and international pediatric lung transplant community in particular has emerged more fully in the last decade with her participation on several governing councils of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation. I believe this mix of Dr. Carol Conrad's abilities, commitment and performance in clinical care, teaching, scholarly activity and service clearly merits her promotion to UML Professor. Carol is one of my favorite people at Stanford, and I've been here since arriving as a fellow in 1977. I profoundly hope her wonderful qualities are recognized by her peers with this promotion."

Richard Moss - January 11, 2025 at 05:43 PM

LC

Thank you so much for sharing this Dr. Moss. It means so much to us, the family, to gain a greater understanding of the brilliant work she did.
Lisa Conrad

Lisa Conrad - January 12, 2025 at 10:34 AM

MW

Wow...! I have known Carol and the Conrads almost forever.... Since childhood...

Yes she's also been one of my ALL time favorite people and I can't say I'm happy to lose her I'm so impressed to see how much she's achieved in her life....♥♥

Marta Wolfe - January 12, 2025 at 10:29 PM

MA

Rest in Peace Dr. Conrad. Thank you for everything you did for my little sister Chella. You will be greatly missed.

Marissa Avalos - January 15, 2025 at 07:03 PM

DR

Thank you Dr. Conrad. I was a high school friend of Carols and over time heard about her through a friend but I didn't know all this amazing work she did and I am SO proud of her. What a legacy she leaves behind. What an amazing woman. My heart goes out to the family and her colleagues and friends for the loss. Deanna Roesler

Deanna Roesler - January 25, 2025 at 10:16 PM

CC

“ *Colorado Conrads purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carol Kay Conrad.*



Colorado Conrads - January 11, 2025 at 03:43 PM

JB

“ *Jackie, Lidia, and Bryan purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Carol Kay Conrad.*



Jackie, Lidia, and Bryan - January 10, 2025 at 09:03 PM

KD

“ My heartfelt condolences to the Conrad family many years my dad and her dad would get into trouble together after softball games. She was smarter than a whip with a very dry sense of humor. May you rest in peace Carol, until we all meet again

Karen Davis - January 10, 2025 at 02:30 PM

BR

“ Carol had an incredible sense of humor—that dry wit surely inherited from her father. I told her so at one of our high school reunions, and we laughed recalling some softball memories from middle school. Her brains and talent will surely be missed. ❤️

Bonnie Campbell Rowan - January 09, 2025 at 01:21 PM

R(

“ Racheal Savage (Walker) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol Kay Conrad.

Racheal Savage (Walker) - January 09, 2025 at 12:56 PM

R(

“ Racheal Savage (Walker) purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Carol Kay Conrad.



Racheal Savage (Walker) - January 09, 2025 at 12:56 PM