



Dr. John M. Park

January 2, 1964 - May 13, 2025

Park, John Mo (박재모)
Ann Arbor, MI

Dr. John Mo Park (박재모), age 61, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, surrounded by his family. John was born January 2, 1964, to Kyung Sook Park and the late Joon Sang Park. He was married for 35 years to Helen Park, daughter of Robert and Judy Lee. John is survived by his three children: Andrew Park, Evan Park, and Gloria (Michael) Kim. He is also survived by his siblings, Sam (June) Park and James Park (Maya Kato); his brother-in-law, Frank (Sally) Lee; his aunt, Kyung Sook Lee; as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews, and a grandson on the way.

John focused on a career in medicine and obtained a B.S. in cellular and molecular biology and an M.D. from the University of Michigan. Completing a urology residency in 1995, John took a two-year fellowship at the American Foundation for Urologic Diseases and then completed the Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School Pediatric Fellowship. John joined the U of M urology faculty in 1999 and quickly ascended the academic ladder, becoming the Cheng-Yang Chang Endowed Professor of Pediatric Urology in 2008. In his care for patients and their families, John brought his trademark kindness, clinical wisdom, surgical virtuosity, and compassion. His greatest joy was when he had the opportunity to pray with his patients. Throughout his career,

John inspired those around him and valued every voice - from hospital workers to students, residents, colleagues, and friends. He became Section Head of Pediatric Urology and later Surgeon in Chief at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, where he led by example in the clinic, at the bedside, in the classroom, and in the operating room. In conjunction with his hospital work, John served on many mission trips and trained doctors in Central America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

At home, John was a loving and sacrificial husband, father, and son - generous with his time, caring in all he did, and steady in his presence. He was a true Michigan man, never missing a game with friends and always wearing maize and blue with pride. He found delight in simple pleasures - running through the neighborhood with the family dog, Cinderella, and winding down in the evenings playing games and laughing with Helen. But above all these things, what guided John in his career and shaped how he lived and how he loved his family was his devotion to God. Throughout his life, and especially in his cancer journey, John's story was marked by God's faithfulness, blessings, and grace.

A Memorial Service honoring John's life will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Grace Bible Church (1300 S. Maple Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103). The family will receive friends at a luncheon immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the "John M. Park, M.D., Lectureship in Joy of Medicine". [<https://michiganmedicine.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=631>]. To leave a memory you have of John, to sign his online guestbook, or for directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com

To read about Dr. Park's cancer journey, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/875568167288924>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 7. 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
1300 South Maple Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
<http://www.gracea2.org/>

Luncheon

JUN 7. 11:30 AM (ET)

Grace Bible Church
1300 South Maple Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
<http://www.gracea2.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ Dr Park was an great, caring man and doctor! He treated my son over the years since he was a baby and always made us feel so comfortable and truly heard! I loved that he would pray with us before surgery. He is remembered well and truly missed!

Faith Carlson - December 04, 2025 at 09:53 PM

JR

“ My son was born with an extremely rare/complex syndrome and Dr. Park saved his life.. not once- but twice. He was by our sides every step of my son’s journey and he always went above and beyond for him. After my son’s 2nd surgery in 2021, Dr. Park came in and told us everything went well. I was so emotional I asked him if I could hug him. Without hesitation he said “of course”. I am forever grateful I got to hug him in that moment. I also told him that we would be lost without him- which is also so incredibly true. Nobody provided so much love, medical care, and knowledge towards my son like Dr. Park did. He is truly one of a kind. It breaks my heart to know he is no longer with us. But I am so happy and grateful we had the opportunity to know him and he was able to provide my son with 10 years of a healthy life. He is still here and doing well at almost 16 years old because of you. Thank you, Dr. Park. We will miss you. Rest in Peace.

Love,
Dominic & Jordan



Jordan Reeves - October 03, 2025 at 02:29 AM

BR

“ Dr. Park was a remarkable man and a wonderful doctor. My two sons had minor surgeries with him and they could not have received better care. The world has less light now that he is not here but his character lives on. We will remember him fondly.

Brittany Ramaut - September 17, 2025 at 06:47 PM

KJ

“ Dr. Park was an incredible person and surgeon. He performed a rare surgery on my son and was so kind and empathetic during the whole process. My son was very scared and Dr. Park was extremely compassionate and took the time to make sure he was ok. Dr. Park made a profound impact on our son's life and also ours. An example to all physicians! We are very sad to learn of his passing.

Kathryn Jones - July 03, 2025 at 01:34 PM



I was trying to set an appt up only to find this obituary. He and God saved my daughter's life at 6 months old.. we traveled down for the surgery. He took us in early to do it. Called me on my cell phone himself to get information and told us to come down to Ann Arbor. In his words; God is the ultimate surgeon. Knowing he was a true Michigan man my daughter sported a Spartan dress the day of the operation to lighten the mood and see Dr Park laugh. Truly remarkable man. I pray for his family. And I am sad my daughter did not get to thank him and for him to see how well she is doing at 11 years old. RIP Dr Park!

Robert Bentley - July 25, 2025 at 10:21 AM

AD

“ I’m so heartbroken and very very saddened. doctor park has been working on me since I was 5 years old! I’m now 25 years old! I’ll be 26 in march of 2026. Words can’t explain the pain in my heart. He was my rock. I was always told I was his favorite patient out of over 1000 he had since day 1 of his career! When nobody else believed in me he did. I wouldn’t be alive today if it wasn’t for him and his magic! Doctor park has touch many people’s hearts in ways I can’t even explain. I’m forever grateful and will forever cherish every single memory we had together!

Anastasia durrenberg - July 02, 2025 at 06:00 PM

LF

“ DR park when i was just 3 i needed surgery and he saved my life

Landon Fisher - July 02, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ I am so sad to hear about Dr. Park’s passing. We are grateful for the wonderful care he gave to our son throughout the last 7-ish years, greatly improving his quality of life. Thank you Dr. Park...your legacy will undoubtedly live on through the countless lives you touched. Tell Jesus I said hi.

Jamie Woodburn - July 01, 2025 at 10:59 AM

DZ

“ I will always remember the peace, warmth, and goodness of John's smile and presence. He is an amazing model for all physicians and people. I have no doubt he is now rounding with our Savior that he sought to emulate and follow.

David Zopf - June 08, 2025 at 10:34 AM

EC

“ It is so difficult to put into words what a wonderful man Dr. Park was. He was our granddaughter’s doctor for seventeen years....getting her through some very very hard times. Our family will be forever great fun to him.
Grandparents of Molly Cesa

Edward Cesa - June 07, 2025 at 01:07 PM

BP

“ I feel like I knew John my entire career at Michigan, from training for two years in surgery, then anesthesia and then working with him in Mott for literally both our entire professional life. He was always quick to smile, heard bad news with grace, treated everyone with respect and was a positive spiritual light for families at a stressful time as they trusted our team to take their child into the operating room. And John was my go-to Michigan sports guy! We talked football or basketball on the daily. His absence in our lives is a real loss. But for him - a live well-lived.

Bridget Pearce - June 07, 2025 at 06:11 AM

ML

“ John was an amazing man. I was lucky to have him as a research partner and guide. He was so generous with his time, expertise, and true caring. He will be missed, not only by his Michigan family but by many around the world. He embodied the quote from Matthew: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Monica Liebert - June 06, 2025 at 01:10 PM

MW

Well done indeed. God be with you 'til we meet again. Keep those he loved most and best in His care.

Marcia Westfall - June 10, 2025 at 01:43 PM

CS

“*Dr. Park was an extraordinary man who not only transformed the lives of countless children and their families, but also changed the course of my own life.*

I first met Dr. Park as a freshman at the University of Michigan, working in his urology office. As a young, aspiring doctor, I looked up to him for guidance and mentorship during those formative years. He believed in me before I believed in myself. It was Dr. Park who was formative in my pursuit of medicine—and later, influential in considering urology as a calling. It was Dr. Park who showed me that medicine is not just science, but also humanity and art.

One of my most cherished memories is the day I had the chance to operate alongside him during my urology rotation at Michigan. I'll carry that day with me forever. He was the first person to call me “Dr. Shafer”—before I had even earned the title—and in doing so, gave me a sense of belonging and confidence that I carry to this day.

While his mentorship shaped my path, it was the way he treated others—with unwavering kindness, humility, and compassion—that left the deepest impression. That's the physician I aspire to become.

Thank you, Dr. Park, for never stopping believing in me—and for welcoming me as family ten years ago. Your memory will live on in every life you touched. Mine most of all.

Corey Shafer - June 06, 2025 at 10:17 AM

MO

“ *Mark Faasse, MD (UM med student, 02-06) purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. John M. Park.*



Mark Faasse, MD (UM med student, 02-06) - June 05, 2025 at 06:00 PM

BH

“ *Dr. Park was one of the best people I've ever known. His kindness, grace under pressure and dedication were truly inspiring. I admire how he was so true to his faith and himself in his work, and that his genuine goodness shone through and inspired us all to be better. He was a uniquely positive presence, an incredibly talented surgeon and a consummate team player.*

Bishr Haydar - June 05, 2025 at 10:08 AM

MT

“ *I worked briefly with Dr. Park at Brighton clinic. He taught me by the way he treated the staff, patients, and families with such dignity & compassion. It saddens me to hear of his passing. I pray his family, colleagues, friends and patients find comfort in their memories of this magnificent man. God bless his family.*

Mary Taylor - June 05, 2025 at 09:41 AM

HF

“ *Heidi F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John M. Park.*

Heidi F. - June 04, 2025 at 03:13 PM

MM

“ I knew John throughout my long career at Michigan Medicine as a Pediatric Emergency Medicine faculty member and eventually as Chief of Staff of the Health System. We work in a large, complex system, but Dr. Park stood out as a shining example of what a Michigan doctor SHOULD be, a superb healer, a teacher, a scholar and a deeply compassionate human being. He used his wonderful intellect, talents and drive to heal suffering children. He will not be forgotten and I am grateful to have known him.

Marie Lozon, MD - June 04, 2025 at 02:55 PM



“ I met John when I arrived in Ann Arbor for my first year of medical school. He was in his second year in the medical school. I was far from home facing the daunting challenges of medical school. John took me under his wings and guided me through the years of medical school. He was like a big brother to me in medicine and in faith. I will always be grateful for all of your help and kindness. I am grateful that I got to know you. I am heartbroken that you are no longer with us, but comforted that you are with God, our father.

John Lim - June 04, 2025 at 01:12 AM

YF

“ Yi family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. John M. Park.



Yi family - June 03, 2025 at 01:36 PM

YF

“ Yi family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John M. Park.

Yi family - June 03, 2025 at 01:36 PM

RL

“ Rocky L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John M. Park.

Rocky L. - June 03, 2025 at 12:24 AM

CM

“ Dr Park was my son's urologist and we were SO incredibly blessed by him ❤️ He would remind us of the picture he took of my son as Spider-Man at one of his appointments. He had Faith in my son and helped him get a surgery at a young age that drastically changed his way of life, for the better. In all of these years of memories, (15 years) the biggest blessing was how he would pray over my Gabriel before surgeries ❤️ I love knowing he is with our Savior in a place of peace ❤️

Carrie Milam - May 30, 2025 at 11:08 AM

HW

“ I first met John my sophomore year at Michigan. It was my first Korean Christian Fellowship meeting and he was up front leading praise with his guitar. He was one of the founding members of the group. Countless young people were impacted and lives were changed over the years because of this small group of 10-15 people that met at Stockwell Hall. Thank you, John, for your faithfulness. Thank you for showing so many people how to love God and how to love others well. You will be missed.

Hanna Won - May 24, 2025 at 09:55 AM

“ *In Loving Memory of Dr. Park*

Dear Dr. Park,

It is with deep sorrow and immense gratitude that I write this note, reflecting on the extraordinary life and legacy you leave behind.

You were not only a gifted surgeon, but a rare and remarkable human being—calm in the face of pressure, precise in your work, and endlessly compassionate with every patient and colleague. Your hands healed, but it was your heart that truly set you apart.

What made you special went far beyond the operating room. You brought light and kindness wherever you went. Whether it was a reassuring word before surgery, a moment of encouragement to a trainee, or a quiet smile that could ease anxiety—you had a way of making those around you feel seen, valued, and safe.

Your presence was a steadying force. You led with humility, listened with care, and treated every life as sacred. In your own quiet way, you changed so many lives—for the better, for the longer, and for the kinder.

You leave behind a legacy not only in the lives you saved, but in the love and respect of everyone fortunate enough to work with or be cared for by you. We will carry your memory with reverence, and your example will continue to guide us.

Thank you, Dr. Park—for your brilliance, your goodness, and your grace. You will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

*With heartfelt admiration and respect,
Fatme*

Fatme Hammoud - May 23, 2025 at 04:06 PM

CH

“ There never seemed to be a line where one area of John's life began and another stopped. Church (God), family, work, or hobbies all seemed to roll together to make the man we knew. I once asked John what he knew about hernia's. In a concerned tone he asked if I had one. I said no, but I think my 6 year old son does. John and I pulled him out of Sunday School, took him in the boys bathroom, and John concluded my diagnosis of a hernia. John asked me what we were doing Thursday morning at 7:00 AM. I said going to U of M for surgery? he said yes. I was asked how we got in to see Dr. Park so quickly..... John will be missed, but not forgotten.

CARL HAYES - May 23, 2025 at 11:10 AM

JH

“ Jia H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. John M. Park.

Jia H. - May 20, 2025 at 11:05 PM

PK

“ I had the privilege and honor of working with John during my time as the Executive Director of the Children's Hospital. John was a true servant leader. He would not ask of others what he wasn't willing to do himself. John always put patients first, while being a strong advocate for his colleague care givers. He truly brought joy to the mission of caring for those who entrusted their care to those working in the health ministry at Michigan. He will be missed, but never forgotten. The medical center is better because of his talents and contributions. May he rest in peace.

Paul King - May 19, 2025 at 06:49 PM

LH

“ It was truly an honor to work for Dr. Park. He was the kind of person who led with compassion, treated everyone with respect, and made you feel seen and valued not matter your role. His kindness wasn't just in words, it was in the way he listened, supported others without hesitation, and brough calm and warmth into every room.

Working for Dr. Park didn't just make you better at your job, it made you want to be a better person. I remain deeply thankful for the time I had working with him and for the standard of integrity and kindness he modeled every day. His impact will live on in the lives he touched, including mine.

My heartfelt condolences to Helen, Andrew, Evan, Gloria, and the entire Park family during this difficult time.

Leslie Hamilton - May 19, 2025 at 04:29 PM

JE

“ John will be dearly missed by so many - friends, colleagues, and patients alike. He was a consummate professional who cared deeply for each of his patients. His love of his craft inspired so many of his trainees to carry that dedication forward. Like the proverb goes, he “taught us to fish”.

Jon Ellison - May 19, 2025 at 10:41 AM

SD

“ Dr. John Park is highly esteemed at Michigan Medicine and will be extraordinarily missed by colleagues, patients snd friends. He was a super kind, gem of a human being and God only knows the magnitude of suffering his loss. I have a heart filled with care and condolences for his beautiful family at this extremely difficult time of such profound loss. God's peace. With love and care from Mama J

Susan Draffen - May 17, 2025 at 11:43 PM

LL

“ Dr. Park immediately struck me with his deep love for Christ, genuine care, and generosity. Beyond his role as Chief of Surgery, he was a devoted disciple, a true example of a living Christian. His faith fostered a Monday morning prayer group for staff and an evening one with meals for residents, both thriving. Dr. Park became my spiritual mentor; his kindness, compassion, and love for God shaped my life. His legacy: to love God and each other. I will carry his torch across the world. Goodbye for now, my brother. Well done. See you soon. Liz Lopes.

Liz Lopes - May 17, 2025 at 09:02 PM

LS

“ Dr. Park was one of my daughter's (Myah) specialists. He truly cared for his patients and their families. He was an incredibly talented physician and a man of great faith. A role model to all who knew him. We are heart broken and continuing to keep him and his family in our prayers. The world lost a good one 💔

Lisa Schneider - May 17, 2025 at 01:53 PM

MP

Dr Parks took care of my son Shawn who was born with a bladder the size of a walnut and thick like a orange peel (Dr Parks description to us). He did an augmentation to make Shawn a bladder. He was so kind to us and explained things to where we understood what was happening and what he was going to do. He made us feel like family. I was just looking him up as Shawn has to go back to the U of M for more work to his bladder and kidneys hoping he could help us. So sorry to hear this news. He was so gifted and blessed. I hope he can guide the Doctors from heaven to help Shawn. Our thoughts are with his family and friends and colleagues during this sadness and loss.

Melanie Pond - May 19, 2025 at 10:20 AM

DO

Dr Park entered our first time parents' world and was our son's doctor when he was just 3 weeks old. We were thrust into a year of trials and he was truly our calm in the storm. Our son had his what would be his last surgery at 9months of age. We visited with him every year for follow-up visits after that until he released us to life at the age of 10 and said call if you need me. Our son will turn 23 the end of this month and over the years we shared with him the story of the gifted and kind doctor who helped him. We shared with him the loss and he was equally saddened. God bless this man and prayers for his family's grief during this time.

Denice Osworth - May 24, 2025 at 07:41 AM

SW

“ 2 files added to the album Medical Mission Work in Haiti



Stuart Wolf - May 17, 2025 at 11:28 AM

SW

John was a Child of God who knew his place in the world and fulfilled his mission to Love and Serve completely. The world has lost a great man but heaven has gained a great soul.

Stuart Wolf - May 17, 2025 at 11:30 AM

CC

My encounters with Dr. Park were only brief, passing in hallways or corridors, but he had this wonderful aura of understated kindness and caring that was truly remarkable.

cliff craig - June 05, 2025 at 02:43 PM

JH

“ John was a beacon of kindness, compassion, and excellence. As a master surgeon, he touched countless lives, not only through his skillful hands but also through his unwavering dedication to his patients. His legacy is etched in the gratitude of those he healed and the admiration of all who had the privilege to work alongside him.

Beyond his professional achievements, John was a mentor who believed in the potential of others. He guided with patience, inspired with wisdom, and led by example. His gentle encouragement and genuine care left an indelible mark on my life and the lives of many.

Though he is no longer with us, his spirit endures in the lessons he imparted and the lives he touched. I am forever grateful for his guidance and friendship. John Hollingsworth

john hollingsworth - May 16, 2025 at 07:07 PM

DF

“ John was a remarkable physician and surgeon but an even better person. I met John in 1989 when he was a medical student, and I was a resident. It was a joy to work with him when I returned to Michigan. He was a kind and giving man. His memory is a blessing for all luck enough to know him.

Dee Fenner

Dee Fenner - May 16, 2025 at 01:02 PM

SO

“ I first met Dr. John Park at the AAP meeting in San Francisco in October 1998 as a young man of the same age. We continued our relationship and I got to know him more closely in 2003 when I was a two-year fellow to Professor Edward McGuire at the University of Michigan. He was a great friend, teacher, and leader. His passion for his patients and human warmth impressed everyone around him. I am grateful for all the memories I have of him. May he rest in eternal peace. My deepest condolences to his family. -- Seung-June Oh from Seoul, Korea (Seoul National University Hospital)

Seung-June Oh - May 15, 2025 at 09:43 PM

BH

“ John was an exceptional surgeon, mentor and friend. Most importantly, he was an exceptional human being. He will be missed. However, the lessons he taught and the behaviors he modeled will be remembered and emulated by those of us whose lives he touched. With love and sympathy, The Hollenbecks

Brent Hollenbeck - May 15, 2025 at 03:58 PM