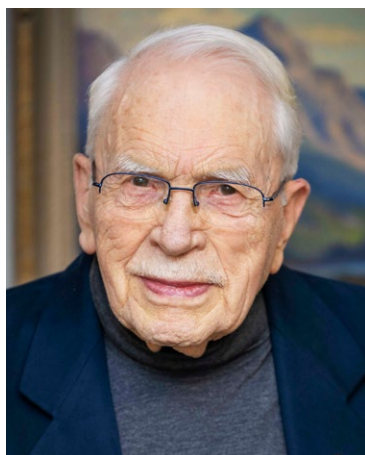


Obituaries

We welcome original tributes of less than 700 words; we may edit them for clarity and length. Email obituaries to journal@doctorsofbc.ca. Include birth and death dates, full name and name deceased was best known by, key hospital and professional affiliations, relevant biographical data, and a high-resolution head-and-shoulders photo.



Dr Vernon Withold Krause
1925–2026

Vernon Withold Krause, MD, FRCPC, passed away peacefully on 20 May 2026, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the age of 101, surrounded by his loving family. Born on 2 March 1925 in Bruderheim, Alberta, to Withold and Alice Krause, Vern lived a life marked by curiosity, empathy, and generosity.

Vern earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta in 1948. His career began in Mayerthorpe, Alberta, where he practised family medicine. In 1950, he married Isabel Merriman, an OR nurse he met at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

Driven by a desire to keep learning, Vern moved to Ontario in 1955 to specialize in pathology at Queen's University and the University of Toronto's Banting Institute, later working in pediatric pathology at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. After settling in Halifax in 1961, he served as director of laboratory services at the then IWK Hospital for Children and the adjacent Grace Maternity Hospital and as an

assistant professor at Dalhousie University. His publications, leadership, and contributions to his field were recognized nationally when he was elected president of the Canadian Association of Pathologists in 1981.

In 1983, Vern and Isabel returned west, to British Columbia, where he continued his career in general pathology with Dr C.J. Coady Associates, serving as chief pathologist at the then MSA Hospital in Abbotsford. Following his retirement, he remained engaged, taking on pathology locums in communities across the country.

Vern maintained an active lifestyle, playing tennis, cycling, fishing, skiing, sailing, and white-water rafting, in addition to his keen interest in the stock market, current affairs, and sports, especially when an Edmonton team was in the mix. He often crisscrossed the country to visit and support family. He traveled to six continents to fulfill his interest in history, art, and culture, accompanied by family, friends, and his longtime friend Dr Lynn Kobierski.

At age 90, he returned to Halifax, where he became a valued member of the Parkland at the Gardens retirement community. He participated with enthusiasm in activities like book club, painting, writing, and exercise classes. He enjoyed sharing medical news and insights at the weekly discussion group meetings. With his sharp memory, he delighted many with stories of his life experiences. His saying "Trying to stay in the game" captured his enduring spirit.

Vern is survived by his children, Shauna (Payson) Hunter of Halifax, Donald (Lois) of Mississauga, David of Ottawa, and Margaret (Monty Clemens) of Whistler; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; his sister Barbara (Jim) Moscovich; and Alberta-based nephew and nieces. He was

predeceased by his beloved wife, Isabel; his brother, Gilbert; and his parents.

Memorial donations may be made to the IWK Foundation in Halifax.

—Margaret Krause
Whistler



Dr Michael C. Klein
1938–2026

Dr Michael C. Klein died on 10 June 2026, 1 week shy of his 88th birthday.

Michael was a pioneering family physician and medical researcher who had a lasting impact on maternity care in Canada and beyond. He was head of a McGill University teaching centre and the Department of Family Medicine at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal for 17 years and head of the Department of Family Practice at BC Children's and Women's Hospitals in Vancouver for 10 years. He was professor emeritus of family practice at the University of British Columbia and senior scientist emeritus at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute in Vancouver. For his work in placing maternity care at the heart of family medicine, he was appointed a

member of the Order of Canada.

Michael was born in Los Angeles, California, the son of Anne and Phil Klein, who raised him in a socialist, secular Jewish home, surrounded by art and activism. His father was a cartoonist and among a small group who started the union at the Walt Disney Company and led a long strike there just prior to the US joining World War II. One of Michael's earliest memories was sitting on a motorcycle outside the gates of the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California, at 3 years of age and shouting "Scab!" at everyone who attempted to enter. After the strike, his family returned to the East Coast, and Michael grew up mainly in Newark, New Jersey.

Michael and his wife, Bonnie, to whom he was married for 59 years, immigrated to Canada twice. The first time was under duress in 1967 as Vietnam War resisters, when Michael refused to serve as an officer in the United States Army Medical Corps. The second time was by choice in 1975, this time drawn by Michael's desire to work in Canada's public health care system and by the National Film Board of Canada, where Bonnie spent many years as a documentary filmmaker. In both cases, Canada beckoned because of public policy choices that distinguished this country from our southern neighbors.

Michael did his undergraduate degree in political science at Oberlin College in Ohio and then attended medical school at

Stanford University in California. While still in medical school, he lived and practised medicine for many months in both Chiapas, Mexico, and Ethiopia. His early experience working with midwives in Ethiopia—delivering babies using techniques for natural pain relief and without routine episiotomy—were formative, leading him to question many standard but unjustified procedures in Western maternity care.

Michael made many unconventional decisions as a result of this insight, transitioning from a specialization in pediatrics and newborn care to become a family physician with a lifelong focus on low-tech birth. Michael delighted in being an accomplice to the miracle of new life. He delivered—or, as he always said, "caught"—thousands of babies. Deeply concerned about the overmedicalization of birth, he was driven to transform the medical profession's approach to bringing new humans into the world so that it reflected the joy, strength, and health that are at the heart of pregnancy. He played a key role in the legalization of midwifery in BC and other provinces (much to the dismay of many other doctors) and championed the role of birth doulas. He loved bumping into the babies he helped deliver as adults. It happened all the time.

Over his career, he conducted groundbreaking research, mainly on the overuse of medical interventions during childbirth (particularly cesarean sections and episiotomies). Dr Vania Jimenez, a longtime

colleague, observed that "Dr Klein chose to follow the path of science and research to investigate the validity of his insights about birth, leading to profound changes in how we practise." Michael believed deeply in mentorship and spent his last energies co-writing papers with younger researchers. He published until the very end, with a paper appearing only a month before his death and another posthumously.

Michael suffered from an assortment of neurological conditions over his last years, causing considerable pain, loss of balance, and ultimately great difficulty speaking and moving. As a doctor and researcher, he had spent much of his career solving medical mysteries in others, much like a detective. Yet in a cruel paradox, neither he nor any of his devoted doctors could solve his own. He died at home, surrounded by family and friends.

Those interested in learning more about Michael's purpose-driven life can do so by reading his 2018 memoir, *Dissident Doctor: Catching Babies and Challenging the Medical Status Quo*.

Michael leaves behind his wife, Bonnie; his children, Seth, Naomi, and Misha; his daughter-in-law, Christine Boyle, and son-in-law, Avi Lewis; and his grandchildren, Zoe, Toma, Aaron, and Theo.

—Naomi Klein

Vancouver

—Seth Klein, MA

Vancouver

We've updated the Violence Prevention eLearning course for physicians, residents, and medical staff



Course microlearnings available at switchbc.ca

This initiative is a collaboration with health employers, the Ministry of Health, Doctors of BC, and SWITCH BC.

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