

In Memoriam

Donald A Bloch, M. D.

By Carlos Sluzki, M.D.

Donald A. Bloch, M.D., a pioneer, innovator and synthesizer in the field of family therapy and a major driver of key institutions in our area of interest, died on September 18th at the age of 92 in Brooklyn, NY.

Dr. Bloch had a long and distinguished career of over 50 years. He has been a founder, of many ideas, systems and cultures. Early in his career Dr. Bloch has been a member of the committee that created the major player in the field of research, the National Institute of Mental Health.

From 1971-1990 he was the Director of the *Ackerman Family Institute*. Under his leadership, the Institute inaugurated an expanded clinical training program, developed a large family therapy clinic housed at the Institute and initiated a series of projects aimed at creating new approaches to particularly difficult clinical problems.

He was a charter member and for four years President of the American Family Therapy Academy, and recipient of many honors, including awards and honorary memberships in many professional organizations.

In the 1980s, after a tenure of eight years as Editor in Chief of *Family Process*, dean of the journals in the field of family therapy, he founded and edited the journal *Family Systems Medicine*, now known as *Families, Systems & Health*. In the 1990s,

he was the major force in creating what is now the *Collaborative Family Healthcare Association*. Through these decades and since, Dr. Bloch has steadfastly drawn on his systems expertise to help bridge the mind-body gap and pursue a more humane, egalitarian and interdisciplinary healthcare

Dr. Bloch has been also a major player in establishing international bridges between American and European family therapy organizations—in fact, helping many countries to develop such organizations. Last but not the least, he was the organizer of the pioneering and multitudinous 1987 East-West Family Therapy Bridging Conference that saw the birth of the International Family Therapy Association.

Don Bloch was a generous mentor, a creative thinker, and a kind and wise man that touched countless lives as a keen therapist, a guide and inspiration as teacher and leader in the field, and a warm friend.