

\$1 million gift celebrates work of late Keck School urologist John Stein

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Gathered around the photo of late USC urologist John P. Stein are (from left): his brother Tom Stein; his wife Randi Stein; Stephen B. Gruber, director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center; Jane Centofante; and Stein's parents Helen Mary and Robert Stein. (Photo/Steve Cohn)

By Hope Hamashige

Jane Centofante came to understand the expertise of the urologists at the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center in an all too personal way. In 1999, her father Albert Centofante, was treated for bladder cancer at USC Norris by Donald G. Skinner, MD, who was then the chair of the Catherine and Joseph Aresty Department of Urology, Keck School of Medicine of USC.

Through the course of her father's treatment, Centofante also came to know some of the physicians and medical staff of the USC Norris. Jane Centofante and her family's impression of the care that their father received was the impetus for her first two initial gifts to the John P. Stein, MD, Endowed Chair in Urologic Cancer Research in memory of her father Al and, finally, her most recent gift of \$1 million to fund the Stein chair.

Stein was a nationally recognized oncologist and researcher before his untimely passing in 2008 at the age of 45. Among his significant research findings was the identification of a molecular marker that predicts which bladder cancer patients would likely face remission and which would have relapses. He also created a surgical technique that revolutionized bladder reconstruction in women. He was the recipient of several honors, including the Young investigator Award from the Society of Urology Oncology.

Stein completed his urology residency under Skinner's direction and spent his entire clinical career at USC Norris and Keck School of Medicine, rising to the rank of professor. Stein's reputation led to his inclusion on the list of "America's Top Doctors" for every year since 2005.