

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE  
HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF  
GARY LOMBARDI, MD  
NOVEMBER 17, 2010**



**JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER**

*Always the best of care.  
Now in the best of places.*  
1400 Pelham Parkway South  
Bronx, NY 10461



**NORTH CENTRAL  
BRONX HOSPITAL**

*Treating Your Family Like Family.*  
3424 Kossuth Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10467

*The North Bronx Helathcare Network (NBHN) is comprised of Jacobi Medical Center  
and North Central Bronx Hospital.*

*HHC - New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation (nyc.gov/hhc)*



*"Island Poppy" by Carol Eisenberg - one of more than 60 images installed to bring comfort and solace  
to patients and families receiving Emergency Services.*

## PERSONAL TRIBUTES

Dr. Lombardi had a profound impact on many of our paramedics and will always be remembered for his significant contributions to our profession.

Capt. Martin J. Braun  
Executive Officer  
FDNY EMS Operations

My earliest memory of Gary was his interest in people, and, in particular, in the way he communicated with them. Medical students are taught to ask people about their "chief complaint" (the CC). He let people know that he was interested in their chief concern, not their chief complaint. The difference between a complaint and a concern is something that he clearly understood. (After all, a complaint is pejorative!) He indicated to people that he was interested in what was worrying them, while at the same time making them know that he had a full command of medicine and its practice. His voice and his warm smile indicated to patients that, not only was he going to help them medically, but he was interested in them as people. He was able to make them feel comfortable.

Gary was an innovator. He played an important role in the development of the first academic Department of Emergency Medicine in New York City, in the development of Jacobi as "The Trauma Center", in the Follow-up Program, in the Paramedic Training Program, in the Nurse Practitioner Program, and in many other innovative programs.

Above all, he was a superb teacher. He really knew all there was to know about a particular subject and he communicated that to the students, the residents, and, above all, to the patients. His judgement was superlative!

I frequently went to him to ask, "What do you think I should do?"  
He was also a great listener.

In a few words, Gary was the consummate physician.  
I, and every other person he touched, miss him terribly!

Bertrand Bell, MD  
Distinguished University Professor  
Albert Einstein College of Medicine



# Memorial Tribute

## Introductory Remarks

### **Hannah M. Nelson**

Associate Executive Director, External Affairs, NBHN

## Welcome

### **William P. Walsh**

Senior Vice President, NBHN  
Executive Director, Jacobi Medical Center & North Central Bronx Hospital

## A Chorus of Remembrance

### **Peter Moyer, MD, MPH**

Professor, Emergency Medicine Emeritus, Boston University  
Medical Director, Boston Fire, Police, EMS (Retired)

### **Michael Reichgott, MD**

Associate Dean, Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Representing Allen Spiegel, The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean

### **Paul Gennis, MD**

Chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine, NBHN

### **Wally Carter, MD**

Director, Emergency Medicine Residency, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

### **Joanne Cronley RN, BSN**

Adult Emergency Department, JMC

### **Ellen Crain, MD**

Chairperson, Department of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, NBHN

### **Anthony Ciorciari, MD, MS**

Attending Physician, Department of Emergency Medicine, JMC

### **James P. Booth**

Division Chief, EMS Division 2, FDNY  
Representing Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano

### **J.P. Martin, EMT-P**

Division Chief, EMS (Retired)

### **Kevin Brown, MD**

Attending Physician, Department of Emergency Medicine, Phelps Memorial Hospital

### **Rick Levine, RN, NP**

North Central Bronx Hospital

### **Rodney Dreifuss, MPA, EMT-P**

Director, St. Louis, Missouri EMS (Retired)

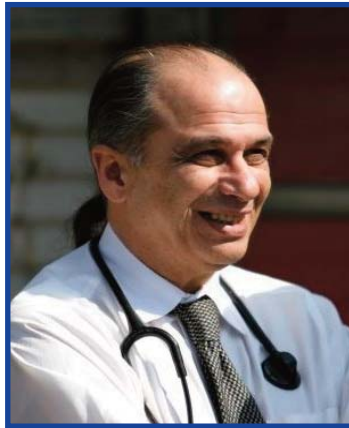
## Unveiling the Permanent Memorial Tribute

### **Hannah Nelson & Jane Lombardi**

## Reception

Corporate Conference Center (Bldg 4 ♦ 2nd Floor)

# Gary Lombardi, MD A Quarter Century of Treasured Leadership



**G**ary Lombardi was born on January 14, 1951, the first of three sons of Dr. Emil and Ann Lombardi. He graduated from the University of Buffalo in 1972 and continued his studies at Hofstra University, where he earned his Master's Degree. His interest in pre-hospital care then led him to New York City's Emergency Medical Service. In 1974, he was one of the first graduates of the Paramedic Training Program offered by the Institute of Emergency Medicine at Jacobi

Medical Center. This was a ground-breaking program, designed to bring sophisticated, life-saving skills directly to the patient in the field.

Gary's interest in Emergency Medicine ultimately led him to medical school. He earned his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1982, and completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Jacobi. He subsequently accepted a position on staff at Jacobi and served for 24 years as an attending physician and Associate Director in the Emergency Department. He also served on the faculty at Einstein as Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and as a member of the Admissions Committee. Dr. Lombardi was certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine and was a fellow of the American College of Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Lombardi's dedication to pre-hospital care never waned. Despite his busy professional schedule, he continued to serve until shortly before his death as a FDNY medical control physician, providing on-line direction and guidance for 911 paramedics responding to difficult emergency cases in the field. He also was active as a clinical investigator, and in 1994, co-authored a study which was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. This study found that less than 2% of NYC out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims survived, and demonstrated the importance of immediate use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) on the scene. His findings were a major catalyst which has since resulted in the widespread placement of AEDs in ambulances, police cars, fire trucks, schools and office buildings.

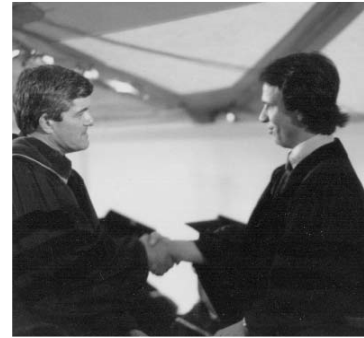
Quiet and unassuming by nature, Dr. Lombardi had a fierce competitive edge, and met life's challenges with focus and determination. He was a devoted husband to his wife and life-long partner Jane, and loving father to their three daughters, Brooke, Pamela, and Jill.

*Dr. Lombardi was a superb clinician, scholar, teacher, colleague and friend. His medical acumen, leadership and mentoring skill have inspired scores of medical students, physician trainees, nurses, paramedics and hospital staff.*

*Most of all, Dr. Lombardi made the critical difference for countless patients, who were fortunate to have had their health and lives entrusted to his expert care.*



Fledgling Paramedic



Einstein Graduate



HBO From City Island To Jacobi



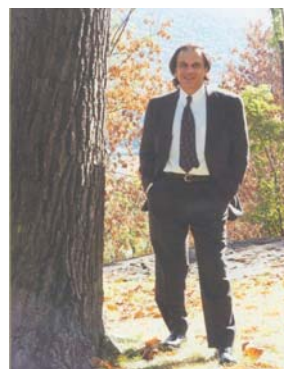
Physician and Teacher



Caring and Working Together



Lifelong Colleagues and Friends



A Man For All Seasons



With His Sweetheart

# THE INSTITUTE OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE AT JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER



In The Beginning

**I**n the 1970s, the grid of multi-lane, high-speed highways which had come to criss-cross the nation made auto travel exceedingly efficient. It also inadvertently gave rise to an increase in traffic accidents – an increase which escalated to near epidemic proportions. Yet the emergency response systems in place at that time to stabilize and treat patients were woefully inadequate. All too often, precious minutes during which a life hung in the balance were lost, while victims were transported to a facility where critical interventions could be initiated. It was clear that a more effective and better coordinated medical response was necessary, and that somehow, invasive lifesaving procedures had to be started earlier.

At Jacobi, emergency physicians had long envisioned the creation of a special program of study which would professionalize the role of emergency responders. This program would offer clinical training, testing and certification to prepare responders to initiate lifesaving interventions in the field, long before the patient ever arrived at the hospital - in effect, a system which would 'bring the emergency room to the patient.'

In 1974, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Jacobi Medical Center established what is now considered a groundbreaking program in the development of effective emergency care: The Institute of Emergency Medicine at Jacobi Medical Center. Guided by its first director, the visionary Dr. Sheldon Jacobson, the Institute developed the first paramedic training program in NYC. This was an intense, 1,500 hour course producing responders who had mastered sophisticated, life-saving procedures never before taught to or provided by non-physician personnel. For the first time, advanced life support interventions from endotracheal intubations to defibrillations, intravenous fluids to cardiac medications were provided on the streets of New York City. For the first time, emergency room services were brought directly to critically ill or injured patients, vastly improving their chances for survival and recovery.

Dr. Jacobson taught the first five paramedic classes, initially without pre-established curriculum, protocols, or texts. He was succeeded from 1978 – 1984 by Dr. Peter Moyer, who went on to serve as Medical Director of EMS, Fire and Safety for the City of Boston. Many of their highly-trained first responders – Dr. Lombardi among them - went on to medical school, and today serve in leadership positions in Emergency Departments and Emergency Medicine training programs around the country. In 1985, paramedic training and continuing education were relocated to the FDNY/EMS Bureau of Training at Fort Totten, Queens. Nevertheless, the legacy of the Jacobi Institute endures.

*“There is no question,” Dr. Moyer remarked, “that the Institute of Emergency Medicine at Jacobi was instrumental in changing the face of pre-hospital care.”*



1st Class of Paramedics

