

# *Catherine Slota-Varma, MD*

## *Scholarship Fund*



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"It felt as if my children were her only patients." Sandra Whitehead summed up the care Dr. Slota-Varma provided as her children's pediatrician with this one simple statement in a tribute to this dedicated, exceptional doctor. Remarkably, most parents felt this way about the care and concern Dr. Slota-Varma had not only for their children, but for themselves as well.

Dr. Catherine Slota-Varma, "Kitty" to her many friends and colleagues, dedicated her professional life to caring for children. Combining her warmth and compassion with her incredible sense of optimism and faith, she eased the pain and fears of those who entered her examining room. She celebrated life, not just her own, but that of her family, friends and patients. As Sandra explained, "I met Dr. Slota-Varma when our first son was born in 1988. She was an important part of his life throughout his childhood and she even dropped by our home in 2005 to congratulate him on his graduation from high school. She was a talented physician and an inspiring woman."

Dr. Slota-Varma received her medical degree from Loyola Stritch Medical College in Chicago in 1976. In 1982, she was founding partner of Shoreview Pediatrics and served as the first female chief of staff at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and past Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at St. Mary's Hospital. She was listed among the "Best Doctors in America" several times and was consistently named one of Milwaukee's "Top Docs."



*The mission of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation is to advance the health of the people of Wisconsin by supporting medical and health education.*

Beyond caring for her patients in the clinic or hospital, Dr. Slota-Varma advocated for their care on the local, state and national levels. The best possible care for children was her goal, whether it meant battles with insurance companies, service on boards and committees, or calls and letters to elected officials about legislative matters. As a Wisconsin Medical Society member she served on the Board of Directors of both the Society and the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation. Nationally, she served on the CDC Advisory Committee for Childhood Lead Poisoning, Mental Health Task Force and the Protect All Kids Coalition. She accomplished so much—and always with an endearing sense of humor and true sincerity in all her words and actions.

As Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Dr. Slota-Varma extended her education and mentorship of medical students outside the classroom. When the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation called for physicians to speak with medical students about their profession, Dr. Slota-Varma embraced the opportunity—even during treatments for a recurrence of breast cancer. She helped secure support for scholarships for medical students as a Trustee of the Foundation and was a consistent donor to the White Coat Campaign.

On January 29, 2007 Dr. Slota-Varma called the Foundation's Executive Director to ask for help in establishing a scholarship fund for medical students. She passed away on February 6, 2007 at the age of 55, after a nine-year battle against breast cancer. Her signed agreement and bequest to establish the Catherine Slota-Varma, MD Scholarship Fund was received by the Foundation on February 7, 2007, demonstrating the magnitude of her dedication.