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Martin Y. Iguchi (1955-2021)

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IN MEMORIAM

Martin Y. Iguchi (1955–2021)



Martin Y. Iguchi, PhD, a pioneering clinical scientist and lifelong champion of equity and racial justice died after a lengthy illness on June 5, 2021. At the time of his death, Dr. Iguchi was a senior behavioral scientist at the RAND Corporation and director of redesign for the Pardee RAND Graduate School.

Born April 19, 1955, in Los Angeles to a tight-knit immigrant family, Iguchi graduated from Vassar College in 1977. He received his MA and PhD in experimental psychology from Boston University in 1986. His postdoctoral work caring for patients in underserved areas of Baltimore and Philadelphia during the height of America's crack cocaine and AIDS crises cemented his career-long interest in addiction—especially the role of criminal drug policies and racism as structural determinants of substance use, its sequelae, and its treatment. After his postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins, he designed the first methadone program in Camden County, New Jersey, and conducted pioneering research on contingency management.

In 1997, his ongoing passion to improve the lives of those suffering from addiction propelled him to become codirector of RAND's Drug Policy Research Center. Through Dr. Iguchi's leadership, the Center examined the cost-effectiveness of drug treatment and how racial disparities in drug law implementation harmed the health of communities. He also used Center resources to incubate the careers of numerous exceptional investigators. Dr. Iguchi's passion for positive change led to

leadership roles in the College on Problems of Drug Dependence and the American Psychological Association and shaped the research priorities of the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He laid the groundwork for increasing racial and economic diversity in health policy research and promoting what would become known as community-based participatory research.

Iguchi continued his academic career in the Department of Community Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles, as a core scientist before serving as Department Chair from 2009 to 2011. Here, he led and supported programs that recruited thousands of high-risk people into HIV and substance use treatment, distributed clean injection equipment and HIV testing kits through vending machines in the Republic of Georgia, and developed a pioneering master's program in addiction studies at Ilia State University. He then became Georgetown University's dean of the School of Nursing and Health Studies, where he reinvigorated its focus on global health and social justice efforts—before returning to RAND in 2015. In Washington, DC, he was also involved in the DC Center for AIDS Research, the U.S.–Japan Council, and the Japanese American Citizens League.

Iguchi's contribution to addiction research is immeasurable. He was the principal investigator on dozens of projects totaling over \$18 million in funding. He authored or coauthored over 150 peer-reviewed publications. He was an invaluable mentor to scholars of color, role model to first-generation researchers, and advocate for early-stage investigators. His service—contributing to numerous journal editorial boards, advisory boards, and scientific review panels—was recognized with countless prestigious awards, including a recent 2022 American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy.

Iguchi is survived by his wife Beth, daughter Sarah, and son Benjamin.

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