



**IN MEMORIAM:**  
**Steve Lieber**

March 31, 2020

*Compiled by the Lieber Institute for Brain Development*

*To the Lieber Family*



Both Steve and Connie were two selfless, smart individuals who were dedicated to finding help for people who medicine had marginalized because they had very difficult disorders. Steve and Connie had a vision for their Institute and Steve pushed on toward that vision even though he had to eventually do it without Connie, then without Sam. Most importantly for me Steve was a delightful individual who had a wonderful sense of humor and a lovely sense of self. The first time I met Steve, in person, was at his home in Mamaroneck. He and Connie invited me to visit when they were considering having me join the Institute. After we discussed how and why the Institute was founded and what they expected to accomplish, they regaled me with the story of how they met. Steve described himself in a Santa suit working at Macy's at Christmas and how the incredible Connie, the girl who won his heart, was at Macy's working during that Christmas. Steve's sheer delight and love was evident in that waterside room of their beautiful home as he recounted stories of their courtship. I left their home and thought how beautiful it was that they were so down to earth, sharing such personal stories with me. I just knew I had to be part of their dream and work as hard as I could to make it happen.

I miss them both.

Elaine Jones  
*Chief Operating Officer*



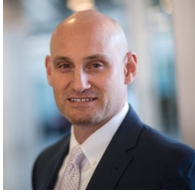
My most vivid memory of Steve was the time we spend together hashing out a lot of the details as we prepared to open the Institute in August 2010. Several of his most trusted staff members at his investment company were tasked with advising me on how to initiate the day-to-day management of the Institute. Without Steve's input, the Institute would never have opened so quickly, nor would it have prospered so rapidly.

Thomas Hyde, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Chief Medical Officer*



Steve Lieber was an extraordinary man whose generosity and leadership will never be forgotten. I feel fortunate to have known him. His loss only makes us more determined to make advances in our understanding, treatment and prevention of schizophrenia accomplishing the goals that he set for himself and our Institute.

Joel Kleinman, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Associate Director of Clinical Sciences*



To get right to the point, Steve was an outstanding person in every way. It was such a pleasure to have gotten to know him over the past 6 years. I was fortunate enough to have had dinner at his house a few months back, just the two of us, and we had such a nice conversation. He had a very calm and gentle way about him. The main impression he leaves me with is his absolutely unflappable resilience and unwavering optimism in the face of adversity. He carried himself with a dignity and poise reminiscent of another era. I took great comfort and inspiration in witnessing firsthand his devotion to the Lieber Institute. I sincerely miss him.

Andrew Maslan, CPA  
*Chief Financial Officer*



Dear Mary, David, Janice and the entire Lieber family,

I extend my sincerest condolences to you all at this very difficult time but I know that you are comforted by the fact that Steve had a life that was well lived and a wonderful family to share that life with.

I joined the Lieber Institute in 2011 and met Steve and Connie for the first time when we hosted the Institute's opening Gala. During that visit we filmed a conversation with them and they shared their vision for the Institute and the story of how they became involved in mental illness research. It was a wonderful conversation. Steve made a comment during that interview that has stuck with me, he said "our primary recreational activity for the last 30 years has been attending scientific conferences to learn everything we could about mental illness and its causes". I just loved that. I had never encountered people who were so dedicated to understanding a cause that they cared about. This is a very complex field and Steve and Connie were, without a doubt, two of the most informed lay people in the field of mental illness in this country, and around the world. I am amazed at what we have been able to accomplish over the last nine years and Steve and Connie were with us every step of the way. As we continue the work that they started and were so passionate about, I will remain forever grateful for their leadership, generosity and kindness.

Sincerely,

Jean DuBose  
*Chief of Staff*



One of my fondest memories was meeting Steve and Connie in their home. I had just joined the Lieber Institute and was trying to synthesize the complex science. Steve and Connie's passion and knowledge were unprecedented and infectious. Over the past 5 years, I have enjoyed regular conversations with Steve. I regularly consulted him on fundraising and marketing strategies. Steve was creative and had a significant impact on the development of our marketing materials. What I will miss most is our shared passion to better understand the biology of human empathy. Steve was one of the kindest, most humble individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

Kari Stoever  
*Chief External Relations Officer*



I fondly remember Steve Lieber's enthusiasm for science, and his highly engaged support for the work at the Institute. His vision for establishing a drug discovery group is now beginning to bear fruit as we approach clinical trials for our lead molecules. He understood the long timeframes necessary and never wavered in his commitment to translational science. Although we only had brief interactions outside of business, I enjoyed speaking with him about sailing and the Bitter End Yacht club where you could imagine a warm Caribbean breeze from the glow of his smile remembering times spent at that magical place. He will forever be remembered for his incredible impact on science, and I am fortunate to have known him and be inspired by his generosity, persistence, and optimism.

Jim Barrow, Ph.D.  
*Investigator and Associate Director of Drug Discovery*



We are ever grateful for Steve Lieber's support of our clinical research into the genes and environmental factors driving mental illness around the world. This work, through the Lieber Institute, has moved us and the science closer to improving the lives of patients. It has also deeply touched the lives and careers of numerous young researchers near and far. As we carry this work well into the future, here and across oceans and cultures, we remain connected with each other, anchored and inspired, not least through Steve Lieber's life of service and philanthropy to brain science and humanity. With deepest sympathies and condolences.

Hao Yang Tan, M.D.  
*Lead Investigator*

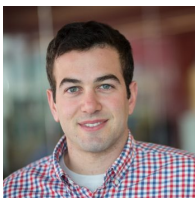


Dear Lieber Family,

It is with great sadness that I hear of the passing of Steve. I want to express my sympathy for your family's loss. I was fortunate to briefly meet Steve and Connie about 8 years ago when the Lieber Institute celebrated its opening. I remember having a feeling of comfort and warmth in their presence, similar to being with my grandparents. They both had large bright eyes and big smiles that conveyed a sincere sense of caring and personal interest. Although I was nervous to meet them, their friendly expressions quickly calmed my nerves. I will never forget this meeting because it was an opportunity for me to meet the people who were responsible for launching my career and in turn supporting my family. They came into my life at the most critical early stage of my professional development and provided me a solid foundation from which to flourish. I can confidently express that without Steve and Connie, I would not be where I am today. Their generosity continues to provide me an unbelievable opportunity to work on my passion in an amazing research environment geared towards reaching their dream of reducing the burden of psychiatric disorders. Their philanthropic support allows me to not only provide for my family but also the families of so many trainees and colleagues in my lab. The support they have given has led to an immense multiplication of people who will continue working on their ultimate goal; an amazing legacy that will continue to grow and endure forever. I will always be thankful to Steve and Connie Lieber and acknowledge them with my achievements now and in the future. I am very proud to be a small part of their giant legacy and my thoughts and prayers for peace and comfort go out to the entire Lieber family.

Sincerely,

Brady Maher, Ph.D.  
*Lead Investigator*



Thank you for the generous support of our institute. We will proudly carry on your legacy – and the legacy of your family - in the halls that bear your name.

Andrew Jaffe, Ph.D.  
*Lead Investigator*



What struck me most about Steve and all of the Lieber family was the engagement and excitement about the science being conducted at the Lieber Institute. I had the opportunity to meet and speak with Steve several times during the very early years when the Institute opened, but unfortunately did not get to talk with him in depth about my own contributions to work at the Institute. However, several years back, on a visit to the Institute Steve met individually with several Lieber Investigators, including myself. I had prepared a slide summarizing some of our work on neurotrophic factors, and how they may contribute to the etiology, and potentially the treatment of a myriad of neuropsychiatric disorders. Steve's response to the presentation was thoughtful, and he asked very insightful questions about the work. It was clear that he had been following what we were doing, and I was quite blown away by how engaged and up to date he was in the fine details of our research. The generosity of Steve and the Lieber family in founding the Lieber Institute to help find treatments for neuropsychiatric disorders is unmatched, and I believe this is the driving reason for the special spirit that is unique to the Lieber Institute. One doesn't find this at other academic institutions doing similar types of work, and this is what I absolutely love about working here. The comradery of working towards a common goal of fulfilling our mission is what the Institute stands for. I will always remember and be grateful to Steve and the Lieber family for the opportunity to be a part of this team-based venture to better understand, and ultimately treat neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders.

Keri Martinowich, Ph.D.  
*Lead Investigator*



Although I only met Mr. Lieber once, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to describe my research to him and thank him for his generous support of the Institute. His dedication to the Institute, and psychiatric research as a whole, was impressive to say the least. It is a source of great pride for me that I am able to contribute to the ongoing mission of the Institute. We all owe a huge debt to Mr. Lieber for his vision and support and he will definitely be missed. My deepest condolences to you as you make your way through this tough time.

Sincerely,

Greg Carr, Ph.D.  
*Investigator, Drug Discovery Division*



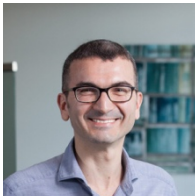
Steve's and Connie's message to find new drugs or therapies by following the DNA resonates with me daily. I'm just joining the Lieber but have known of Steve and Connie through their work with the BBRF throughout my career. They are famous heroes for teaching more scientists that we should pay more attention to the patients as individuals. I'm inspired at Lieber because I know that my question – how an individual's DNA, and their brain DNA specifically, influences who they are – was their question too. It is a unifying principle that we all share. A more appropriate and lasting legacy to Connie and Steve Lieber than the Lieber Institute for Brain Development is hard to imagine. I'm incredibly proud to call LIBD my home. Thank you.

Mike McConnell, Ph.D.  
*Investigator*



We met Steve in 2017 at the Constance Lieber Prize. Having worked for many years at the Institute that bears his very name, we were eager to finally speak to him but also nervous. We were amazed at how witty, affable and good-humored he was, and truly interested in our research. At that time, we were working on the submission of the so-called "placenta paper", whose results were so provocative and out of the box that they were largely frowned upon by reviewers. We were feeling overwhelmed and thinking we would never publish. Steve's reaction to the data, of such curiosity and in fact delight, was a boost of confidence for us. After all, our work at LIBD (on placenta, on suicide, and other projects) originated thanks to Steve and Connie's vision, and it had been and is still founded by the Institute, so that moment was like giving back to somebody who has believed in you and invested in you, and, at a time where others try to tear your work apart, he's listening to you with a gleam in his eye.

Giovanna Punzi, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Postdoctoral Fellow*



Luca Ursini, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Investigator*



For the past 9 years, it has been a true privilege to be a member of the Lieber Institute, carrying out our translational mission, as envisioned by Steve and Connie Lieber. Their generous and continual support has produced a very special research environment, where scientists worry less about getting grants and spend less time on administrative chores, and so can focus on working more creatively and cooperatively on the problem of mental illness. It was a shock to all of us when we heard that our founder Steve had passed. We should use the sense of loss and sadness as motivation to work with greater diligence, in his honor.

Richard Straub, Ph.D.  
*Senior Research Scientist*



Dear Lieber Family,

I wish to express my deepest sympathies for your tremendous loss.

I have been at the Lieber Institute for almost 8 years and have been a direct beneficiary of the kindness and generosity of Connie and Steve Lieber. I came to the Lieber Institute as a postdoctoral trainee after a difficult experience in graduate school, and I was uncertain about pursuing a career in academic research. However, from my first week at LIBD, I was truly inspired by the mission of the Institute and its founders, which reignited my passion for brain research and launched my scientific career. I do not believe I could have found this much-needed inspiration at any other institution.

I have had the privilege of both watching, and also participating in, the Lieber Institute's growth over the past decade. I'm proud to call LIBD my scientific home—a place where I feel supported, understood, and part of a community working towards a common goal. My experiences at LIBD, both in doing science and also interacting with LIBD's distinguished faculty and staff, have dramatically shaped my professional career and in turn my personal life. None of this would have been possible without Steve Lieber and his unwavering support of mental illness research and the scientists embarking on this work. I am especially grateful for the opportunities afforded to me through Steve's generosity and scientific vision. I often reflect on how fortunate I am to have experienced my scientific coming-of-age at the Lieber Institute surrounded by so many talented and dedicated scientists under the auspices of Connie and Steve Lieber. It has made me a better researcher, and I know that as my career progresses I will have the Lieber family to thank. We carry on Steve's mission and remember him along the way.

My sincerest condolences,

Kristen Maynard, Ph.D.  
*Research Scientist*

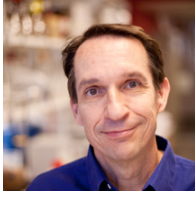


To Steve Lieber Family:

Please accept my deepest sympathies during this very difficult time. Steve Lieber was a true friend of all of us, even of those who did not know him directly. With his immense generosity, he touched so many lives. He and his regretted wife, Connie Lieber, supported the careers and passion for science of scientists from all over the world. They truly made a difference in the research of mental disorders.

With sadness and gratitude,

Eugenia Radulescu, M.D., Ph.D.  
*Research Scientist*



I really appreciated the commitment and engagement that Steve Lieber displayed. I talked with him briefly in 2011 at one of the inaugural parties we had to officially open the institute in its current space. He was charming, thoughtful, and sharp as hell. He asked about my family and I shared our situation—we have two adult children living at home who are on the autism spectrum. I recall that he said "Then you do what you have to do to care for them and prepare them. I want you to help with the mission of the institute while providing for them." That was the only time I really conversed with Steve Lieber, and his overall caring attitude really struck me and has stuck with me. He will definitely be missed.

Sincerely,

Glen Ernst, M.S.  
*Staff Scientist II*



When I paid a 1-month visit to the LIBD in 2016, the plaque at the floor level of the LIBD building remained etched in my memory - the idea that supporting creativity was a primary concern. That plaque became for me an inspiration to look up to: many other ways to foster research support results delivery, the application of standard methods, the execution of plans. I am not quite perfect in following this ideal, but it inspired me to look for means to pursue a collaboration with the Lieber Institute, which in that visit impressed me as the place in which such an ideal could come to life.

I have never known Steve Lieber, except through the actions he decided to support - and his support will inspire me to pass on this way of thinking in my future work in science.

Giulio Pergola, Ph.D.  
*Marie Curie Visiting Scientist*



I am new to the Lieber Institute but have greatly appreciated its culture at all levels, for which all credit must go to Steve Lieber. We owe Steve immensely for his vision and selfless investment, along with his family, to start such a unique project. He set a wonderful example for others to follow, of using resources he was blessed with for a greater cause. In the process he has created a great team of individuals dedicated to working together in a positive, friendly spirit, always bearing in mind the ultimate goal of bettering the lives of those suffering from neurological disease.

Kunal Kathuria, Ph.D.  
*Staff Scientist I*



Dear Lieber Family,

I was deeply saddened to hear of Steve's passing. My thoughts are with each of you during this difficult time.

I joined the Lieber Institute in 2015 and had the privilege of meeting Steve during one of his visits for the annual Board of Directors meeting. He emanated warmth and demonstrated a kind and compassionate spirit then and, in every conversation to follow. But Steve's impact on the lives of others did not stop with those fortunate to have known him. Steve and Connie's lifelong passion and dedication to brain research is unmatched. They were true visionaries and selflessly dedicated their lives and resources to accelerate the search for cures for neuropsychiatric disorders. I think of the thousands of careers Steve inspired by empowering the next generation of scientists and mental health research advocates, and I am forever grateful.

Not a day goes by that I do not feel profoundly thankful for the opportunity to work alongside my talented colleagues towards the most inspiring of missions; to improve the lives of individuals living with brain disorders and their families. To motivate others to realize a purpose bigger than any one individual is a legacy we should all aspire to. Steve was an amazing man who will be missed dearly but will continue to inspire us all.

My sincerest condolences,

Becky Oldham  
*Director of Communications*



It is amazing the indelible mark an individual can make on the lives of others, even when they've never met. More than two years ago, before joining LIBD, I remember watching a clip of Connie and Steve Lieber talking about the Institute and being deeply touched by their focus on mental health and years of commitment in seeking answers. Though I never had the honor of meeting Connie or Steve, I'd often hear stories of their philanthropy, kindness, wit, and dedication to scientific exploration in the field. I know that their memory will live on – not only in name, but also in the scientific community that they have seeded. I am thankful every day for my good fortune in finding a professional home that motivates me to do my very best work, and inspires me daily to deliver just that. I will forever be grateful for Steve and Connie, and the entire Lieber family's, generosity and devotion to a mission I'm proud to be part of.

With much gratitude and my deepest condolences.

Rebecca Freedman  
*Legal Counsel*



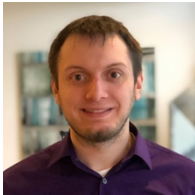
Steve was a remarkable leader with energy and vision. My memory of him dated back to when I had just started at LIBD, right around the time of our annual board meeting. I had a chance to speak with him and mentioned how I look forward to working together on fulfilling Connie's and his dream and vision. He congratulated me and expressed his appreciation on my choice of LIBD to continue my career, and then shared some of his thoughts about LIBD's future. That short conversation was enough for me to understand how much this Institute and our team meant to him. The Lieber family's passion to support and encourage academic and research excellence has led to a number of pioneering initiatives which we, as a scientific community, will be eternally grateful for. Their dedication and support to a cause, making it a lifelong pursuit will always inspire me to contribute to this Institute's mission and to the cause of science. His passing is not only a great loss to us, but also to the larger Neuroscience and philanthropy communities. He will definitely be missed as an exemplary leader and an altruistic friend.

Rujuta Narurkar  
*Director, Alliances & Research Administration*



Though our words can do little, I hope that my thoughts and prayers will support you at this time, sincere condolences.

Francesca Catlin, Notary  
*Staff Accountant*



To the Liebers,

I unfortunately never got to meet Steve, but if I had I would have thanked him for being the kind of person who was capable of giving for the sake of others. I think all too often we get caught up in ourselves at the expense of others— not because we are intentionally selfish, but because thinking outside of oneself isn't something that comes easy to us as a species. It's obvious that Steve saw beyond that and found the willpower not only to join the charge for research into mental illness, but to lead it. We can all only hope to be so simultaneously courageous and caring. So while I give my condolences to you for the terrible loss of a great man, I also give heartfelt thanks for the impact he was able to make on society. May you find peace in tragedy, and strength in adversity.

August (AJ) Deacon  
*Accounting Manager*



To the Lieber family,

My heartfelt condolences are being sent to each and every one of you for the loss of Steve. During my 7 plus years at LIBD, I saw him often walking through the Institute with Danny Weinberger. They seemed to me more friends than partners in this vision of hope that he made possible. My prayers to all of you for your loss.

Joan (McCleary) Williams  
*Staff Accountant*

Dear Janice, Mary, David and the extended Lieber Family,

Steve was an inspirational patron of mental health research and his devotion to matters other than himself was limitless. He was for me, a personal friend, a colleague, and a mentor. The last twelve years of my professional life were closely intertwined with Steve in the shared pursuit of a new solution to an old problem: what are the causes of schizophrenia and how might we better treat it. The project we shared, to establish an innovative, world class “bricks and mortar” institute, moved us in directions that we never imagined. None of what has been accomplished at the Lieber Institute for Brain Development in the past nine years would have been possible without his exceptional intelligence, his insights, and his commitment. In our weekly telephone conferences, I looked forward to Steve’s comments and to his invariably prescient advice. Our calls were rarely about budgets or operational details, though they occasionally included such subjects; they were always about science. Steve and Connie were interested in what was happening that was exciting, from where breakthroughs were coming, and where progress was in new drug development. He didn’t just listen. He made substantive suggestions and gave feedback. As I have said repeatedly, Steve was a fountain of ideas, and most of them were put into action because they were good and right. I used to say to him that I viewed myself as the luckiest man in the world because I was given the historic opportunity to work with him (and Connie) on building this unique scientific institution and because I had their good faith and support. The faith that Steve and Connie put in me to lead this effort humbled me profoundly. Steve was a singular example of selflessness, commitment, humility, and unparalleled generosity.

I knew Steve and Connie for over 35 years. We shared an interest in how early brain development set the stage for early adult problems. Our personal interactions were numerous, at scientific meetings which they regularly attended until around 2010, at occasional lunches and dinners, at the gala at which they bestowed on me the esteemed Lieber Prize, and at BBRF annual events as a member of their SAB. They were more than supporters of mental illness research; they were students and teachers of ways to change the paradigm and they did just that. I always looked forward to my interactions with Connie and Steve even before we started the Lieber Institute. They were the real deal, and it was important to hear their impressions of how research mattered in the real world. It’s hard for me on Sundays without my reality checks with Steve. I miss informing him of the latest discovery, of the progress we are making in so many areas and of the fact that in less than a decade his institute has developed four new treatments for serious medical illnesses. The day I write this we received a major offer to out license one of the signature drug products of the Institute, something I talked with Steve about literally every Sunday for the past six years. It is heartbreaking that I cannot share with him this exciting news that would have made him very pleased. I miss him deeply and my thoughts are of him and Connie, of Sam, and of the Lieber Family. I know that Steve would want us to continue on the path he laid out for us and walked with us. My commitment to realize the Lieber Family vision - that the Lieber Institute for Brain Development will change the lives of people affected by serious mental disorders - has never been stronger.



Daniel R. Weinberger, M.D.  
*Director and CEO*