

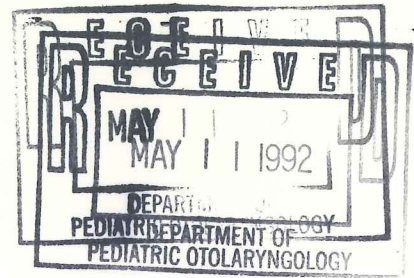
Robert I. Kramer, M.D.





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DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

Robert I. Kramer, M.D.
Chief of Pediatrics

April 28, 1992

Dr. Sylvan Stool
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
Dept of Otolaryngology
3705 5th Avenue at Desoto Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Sylvan:

Please forgive my tardiness but here it is none the less. I have no excuse other than the fact that I put this on the back burner considering the SENTAC Meeting will not be until next December.

I was born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island and attended Brown University graduating in 1954. In 1958 I graduated from Tufts University Medical School and then did my internship and residency in Pediatrics at Yale New Haven Medical Center. I then moved to Dallas, where I was Chief Resident in Pediatrics at Children's Medical Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. I then spent two years in the Navy as Chief of Pediatrics at the United States Naval Dispensary in Washington, D.C. I returned to Dallas in 1963 to join the faculty at the Medical School and took a fellowship in pediatric pulmonology and established the Cystic Fibrosis Care, Teaching, and Research Center at Children's Medical Center and remained as medical director of that program until I retired in 1990. In 1965 I went into private practice, developed a large pediatric practice which parenthetically includes an audiologist and speech pathologist as part of the full time staff. I retired from private practice in 1990, at which time I became Chief of the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor University Medical Center, a position that I currently hold.

It is hard to believe that twenty years ago I was asked to speak to a small group of otolaryngologists at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Otolaryngology and Ophthalmology when it was meeting in Dallas to lecture on lower respiratory tract disease.

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Following this meeting there seemed to be a tremendous amount of interest in developing a multidisciplinary organization devoted to communication disorders in children. I remember about fifteen of us met in the Atlanta airport for our first planning meeting and from that came the wonderful organization SENTAC.

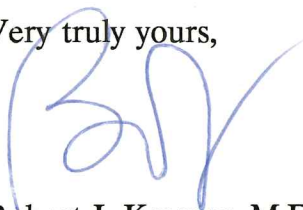
The idea of developing a multidisciplinary organization that would concern itself with all aspects of communication disorders in children was particularly intriguing to me since my role as a child advocate feeds naturally into this mind set. Considering that the practice of pediatrics is to a great extent the medical practice of otolaryngology with an age limit has made the associations that have developed within SENTAC for me personally of inestimable value. In fact, many of the innovative things that we did in my private office over the years before anyone else in pediatric practice in Dallas was doing them are directly related to information and insights that I have received by attending the SENTAC meetings.

On a personal note, being the first pediatrician to be president of SENTAC was a singular honor for me and one that I will cherish as a very special part of my professional career. The incredible number of bright, committed and dedicated professionals that I have had the pleasure to interact with over the years both on a personal and professional level has been immensely gratifying.

As speech and language are so important in the learning process and educational process for our children, I can foresee that SENTAC will not only maintain its preeminence but even grow in the years to come. My greatest hope is that we can get more involvement from the pediatric community considering the strategic alliances that are so important for our children. The ability to communicate with otolaryngologists, audiologists, speech pathologists, neurologists in their "language" has been invaluable for me and I feel because of it I have been able to render better care to the children I have had the privilege of caring for all these years.

With all warm personal regards.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Kramer', is written over the typed name.

Robert I. Kramer, M.D.
Chief, Department of Pediatrics

RIK/ps