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Paul J. Cummings

date of birth September 6 1964

date of death February 13 2014

Beloved father, husband, brother, friend, teacher, and physician, Paul James Cummings took his last breath after the winter storm and as the sun rose on February 13th. Though keenly aware, for more than a year, that gastric cancer would end his life, Paul actively managed his symptoms with the latest and most effective means known. His family is grateful for the compassionate nurses, doctors, and specialists who partnered with Paul to live life to its fullest.

Paul was born to James and Wanda Cummings of Klamath Falls and has two older sisters, Alexis LeBars and Jamie Malloy. His love for nature, people, and life began with time spent outside alone or with his parents watching birds.

After graduating from Roseburg High School, Paul attended Willamette University and embraced the life of a renaissance man studying science, math and the humanities. He met his best friend and life-long partner, Ronda Royal at Willamette. Together, Paul and Ronda studied in London and travelled Europe. They supported each other's dreams, and went on countless walks in their travels. One of Paul's favorite sayings was "solvitur ambulando" (it is solved by walking).

Paul worked in Buddy Ullman's research lab at OHSU after graduating from Willamette University. With the passing of his parent, Paul decided that he needed a profession where he could focus more on people while enjoying science, so he embarked on the long journey of becoming a physician. He enrolled at Washington University Medical School in St. Louis. Paul graduated at the top of his class and was awarded a fellowship at the University of Witwatersand in South Africa. During his fellowship he practiced both rural and inner-city medicine. After his fellowship, he travelled and took photos of animals, people and places in South Africa.



Paul returned to the United States and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. The birth of his first child made him deeply happy, and fueled his calling to become a competent, compassionate, and respectful physician. He became board certified in Internal Medicine and practiced at Virginia Mason clinics in Kent, Auburn, and Federal Way.

When his wife pursued training at the University of New Mexico, Paul supported her and took the opportunity to focus on inpatient medicine, as a Hospitalist for Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque. He loved the challenges of being a hospitalist, and benefits of being part of a team. He enjoyed more time to be with his children, and visited important cultural centers in New Mexico. The strong value of family held by his patients was not lost on him.

Paul chose to work at Legacy Health and brought with him a wealth of knowledge and heart to grow a nurturing community of health providers with the same goal of high quality patient-care. He led by example, and practiced team medicine. He believed that the best care for his patients was founded on professional competence, thoughtful communication, and respect. Paul taught residents and initiated best practices programs. He co-developed an application for



physician's to manage insulin in the hospital. He developed a wiki web page to facilitate communication and education with his team. He made several presentations to national audiences about effective, best practices at Legacy Health.

A celebration of life will be held on Mt. Tabor this spring, and friends and colleagues are invited to plant native shrubs and trees on Mt. Tabor this fall on October 11th. The family is grateful for the beautiful roses, tulips, birds of paradise, orchids, lilies, and greenery. In lieu of additional flowers, please consider walking with a loved one, listening to music, or savoring a cup of coffee, glass of wine, or ice cream.

