

Mr. Swedish,

I sent you an email last week asking if you could help me regarding what happened to my late father, Israel Neustadter at Holy Cross Hospital. I would like to better inform you about my father and about what happened.

My father lost his entire family at Auschwitz, including his parents, a sister, a wife and a 3 year old daughter. He was liberated by the Americans and came to this country as a penniless refugee. I was part of his new family, and I can tell you that I have yet to meet a man more deeply and fundamentally religious. You could not always determine what he really wanted for dinner, but in matters of religion you knew where he stood.

When questions involving end-of-life would arise, such as whether someone with unresectable non-small-cell lung cancer should undergo chemotherapy even though it may only extend life a short time, he would respond simply, "Uvacharta Bechaim," thou shalt choose life.

At one of the meetings I had with Dr. Blair Eig at Holy Cross, I showed him my father's daily prayer book, in which he had meticulously taped a note to remind himself to carefully answer *Amen* to each and every blessing recited at the synagogue. This prayer book was purchased the year my father retired. "Imagine," I told Dr. Eig, "My father had seen the worst that life can offer, and then came to America and saw the best. When he retired he was happy, healthy, had a loving family and enough money to go anywhere or do anything he pleased. And what was on his mind? To tape an admonition to himself regarding proper thought and concentration at the end of a blessing." This man surely earned the right to fight for his life on his terms and in accordance with his religious beliefs.

On the afternoon before he died when I finally suspected that my father needed intubation and the doctors were not offering it, I **demand**ed it of Dr. Jay Weiner, the pulmonologist called in to examine him. Dr. Weiner refused, telling me "Mr. Neustadter, intubation is a very dangerous procedure. We don't just intubate anyone someone asks. Something can go wrong." When I protested that my father was getting better and that he deserved a chance, Dr. Weiner replied, "He was dead the day he got here," and walked out of the room together with Dr. Shamim, the covering physician.

- There is no documentation in the medical record of Dr. Weiner even seeing my father on that day, and Holy Cross refuses to investigate or comment.\*
- My father entered the hospital with no history of heart attack, stroke, cancer, pulmonary disease, dysphagia, aspiration or pneumonia. He was ambulatory, walking a half-mile each day for exercise. He had no underlying terminal illness.

What happened to my father transcends questions about standard of care, and goes to the essence of our mutual religious beliefs and to Trinity's Mission, Core Values, and Standards of Conduct. I'm hoping you will take an interest in this case. My sole desire in wanting to bring the truth to light is deterrence - to insure that this never happens again. That would indeed be a positive outcome from my father's tragedy.

Sincerely,

Alexander H. Neustadter

\* Dr. Weiner's presence and abandonment of my father [confirmed by trial testimony](#).