

The son of two Orthodox Jewish Eastern European immigrants, Dr. Louis Lemberger exemplifies the American Jewish Dream, melding education (from Yeshiva University), hard work and civic-mindedness, always with an eye for helping people in need.

Dr. Lemberger relocated his family to Indiana from New York in 1971 for a position at Eli Lilly & Company, and immediately joined the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. As a scientist and Director of the Lilly Laboratory into the 1990s, Dr. Lemberger's leadership was vital to the development of many life-saving drugs, the best-known of which is Prozac. He was the first person to administer the compound to a human being.

The success of the drug earned Eli Lilly profits in the hundreds of billions, putting Indiana squarely at the top of numerous industry rankings. When he was asked about any compensation he received personally from the company for this achievement, he replied, "The company paid me a salary and gave me the facility and staff to develop this drug that has helped millions and millions of people, that's the real reward." He was modest about it, but everywhere he went, if it came up, someone would shake his hand and say, teary-eyed, "Your drug saved my/my sister's/my child's/my uncle's life." During his entire tenure, Dr. Lemberger insisted on seeing patients at Wishard Hospital to maintain a one-on-one connection to the endgame of pharmacological research – the person in need of treatment.

A highly respected professor (now Emeritus) on the Indiana University School of Medicine faculty, several of his students have gone on to be leaders in their fields while many others have stayed in Indiana to reinvest their knowledge into local communities. His devout adherence to the concept that one should always be learning is a prime example of Judaism's influence on his life and work. For years he carried around a strip from a fortune cookie that read, "Money spent on the brain is never spent in vain." His dedication to that ideal is evident in his own extensive schooling, his support of his daughters and granddaughters onto higher education, nurturing generations of his own students, and his generous contributions to Jewish educational programs.

When Louis was approached to join the Board of Directors for the Jewish Studies Department at Indiana University, he accepted enthusiastically,

committed to preserving and perpetuating access to the history, present and future of Jews and Judaism for the next generation of students. When he self-published the nearly-cult-classic Indiana: Where Basketball is King, or is it Knight? All profits were donated to Indiana University's Bobby Knight Library.

Like most men of his generation, he enlisted in the military, achieving the rank of Senior Surgeon while at Navy Bethesda and the National Institute of Health. He was proud of his service and held the rank of Commander of Jewish War Veterans Post 114 for several years. Through his efforts, the local Post was featured in the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America's national publication.

It is for these reasons (and many more) that this humble giant, Dr. Louis Lemberger, is inducted into the Hoosier Jewish Legends Hall of Fame. The Award is being presented to his family his contributions to mankind.