Henry S. Friedman, MD ’77, HS ’81

Friedman’s interest broadened to go beyond pediatric neuro-oncology since he also wanted to address the problem of adult brain tumors. He hired a pediatric neuro-oncologist to assume responsibility for the pediatric neuro-oncology service and moved his program, which now consisted of more than 50 people, to the Division of Neurosurgery in the Department of Surgery. His conversion to an adult neuro-oncologist was facilitated by his mentor and friend Allan Friedman, MD, chief of Neurosurgery. His work proved pivotal in the development of several of the few FDA approved treatments for glioblastoma including, Temozolomide, and more recently Avastin. Dr. Friedman’s mentorship and friendship led to one of the leading partnerships that continues in the treatment of adult brain tumors. Following the creation of a new Department of Neurosurgery, Dr. Henry Friedman became the first chief of the Division of Medical Neuro-Oncology. His most recent work has been as a member of a team at Duke utilizing a modified poliovirus to treat glioblastoma and a spectrum of non-CNS tumors. This work has been profiled by “60 Minutes” in 2015, 2016, with the latest episode currently being filmed.

Friedman has not only mentored medical students and fellows, but with Dr. Allan Friedman, built the Colleague Athlete Premedical Experience (CAPE), a program designed to mentor female varsity athletes intent on pursuing a career in medicine with the goal of becoming leaders in the field of their choice. To date, the program has placed over 100 such students who are now in medical school or beyond. Friedman is an ardent feminist, and as such, serves on the National Advisory Panel of espnW. He has been a long-term member of the Executive and Super Executive Admission Committees of Duke University Medical School and helps Duke attract a talented and diverse class every year. He is repaying the debt he feels to Broadway by serving as a medical concierge, assisting any member of the Broadway community find needed medical care anywhere in the world. Needless to say, Friedman believes he is leading a full and fulfilling life.

Friedman and Kurtzberg’s marriage is now in its 36th year. “You can tell if a man is smart by determining if he married up,” he says. Friedman admits he has indeed married way up—Kurtzberg is the world’s leader in bone marrow and umbilical cord-derived stem cell transplantation treating a broad spectrum of diseases. They are the parents of two children: Joshua, a 34-year-old attorney in Washington, DC, and Sara, a 29-year-old director of strategic partnerships for a firm in New York City. Friedman and Kurtzberg have no intention of retiring and plan to continue indefinitely making contributions in their respective fields. Friedman’s hobbies include road biking with his wife and going to the gym four days a week when he is not traveling.

Bio submitted by Dr. Friedman