

Tribute • Remembering the Life and Legacy of Dr. Bob Sanet

On behalf of the Optometric Extension Program Foundation Board of Directors and the entire OEPF community, we share our heartfelt condolences with you on the passing of your beloved husband, Dr. Bob Sanet. Bob was not only a remarkable clinician, teacher, and leader in behavioral optometry—he was a man whose kindness, humor, and generosity touched everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

His passion for helping others, his visionary approach to patient care, and his dedication to elevating our profession have left a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire us. Those who learned from Bob often recall how, after a long day of lectures, he would stay late in the lecture hall or clinic, pulling up a chair next to a young practitioner or therapist to answer “just one more question.” In those quiet moments—often long after the official program had ended—Bob turned formal teaching into genuine mentorship, making each person feel seen, encouraged, and capable of more than they believed possible.

We also recognize the unwavering partnership you shared with Bob throughout his career. Your support, presence, and warmth enriched the lives of so many in our community. Please know that the OEPF family holds you close in thought during this difficult time.

Dr. Bob Sanet transformed vision therapy by combining clinical excellence with a deeply human, patient-centered approach that helped practitioners worldwide see vision as integral to learning, performance, and quality of life. Through decades of teaching and mentorship, he inspired generations of optometrists and vision therapists to embrace neuroplasticity, think beyond symptoms, and use vision therapy as a powerful tool for meaningful change in their patients' lives.

Bob will be deeply missed, but the impact of his life and work will live on in every practitioner, patient, and colleague he influenced.

With deepest sympathy,

The OEPF Board of Directors and Community

Eric S. Hussey, Pamela Schnell, Bradley E. Habermehl, Fred Brecheen, Tam Petrosyan, & Line Vreven

The life and legacy of Dr. Bob Sanet remind us that true vision goes far beyond eyesight. Bob helped all of us see the world through a different lens—one shaped by possibility, purpose, and human potential. He had a rare gift for connecting the dots, sharing insights that illuminated not only our clinical understanding but also our sense of what is possible for every patient we serve.

Bob's passion was contagious. He inspired us to step into our own roles as facilitators of change, teaching us to help others see the world more clearly—both literally and metaphorically. He believed deeply in brighter vision, in hope, and in the power of understanding space and applying it to life. His influence expanded far beyond the exam room; it shaped the way we think, the way we practice, and the way we care.

He always supported us as we asked questions and applied concepts! Bob will forever live on in our hearts, in our practices, and in every life touched by the knowledge he so generously shared. We are better vision therapists, better doctors, and better human beings because of him.

His legacy is not only what he taught us—but how he made us see.

Thank you, Bob, for your life, kindness, and love.

Patti and Alex Andrich

Bob and his lovely wife Linda gave so much to optometry over the past several decades, both nationally and internationally. He will be missed. When he came to NYC to visit, we always had dinner together, with great conversation.

Ken Ciuffreda

When Bob and I were in the Residency program at SUNY we were given one day a week of “library time.” One of our mentors Marty Birnbaum suggested we try to put together a research paper on Amblyopia treatment. With no computers or internet this turned in to a one year of hard work project which resulted in a paper still referenced over 50 years later. When deciding on the authorship of the paper Bob insisted on alphabetic order in order to ensure that Marty's name would be first. This resulted in all of the citations

stating Birnbaum, Koslowe, et al. Throughout his lifetime Bob always gave credit to his mentors and colleagues.

Ken Koslowe

I felt was a mutual respect from his comments to and about me from others. I think it was something he did for a lot of people which makes him very unique.

Robert Hohendorf

Dr. Bob Sanet was more than a giant in the world of vision therapy and behavioral optometry; he was the rare teacher who could make the most complex neuro-optometric concepts feel like common sense while simultaneously challenging you to see the world (and your patients) in an entirely new way. His boundless energy, wicked sense of humor, and genuine love for every person who walked through his door transformed thousands of careers and countless lives—he never just taught vision therapy - he taught us how to care fiercely, think creatively, and never accept “good enough” when “remarkable”

was possible. Bob had the unique gift of making every student, colleague, and patient feel like they were the most important person in the room, because to him, in that moment, they truly were. His passing leaves an irreplaceable void in our profession, but the light he ignited in all of us will guide optometrists and the patients we serve for generations to come.

Tamara Petrosyan

I first met Bob at a COVID meeting at which I took his pre-course on visual information processing. I was struck at how down to earth he was; he just had this casual way about him. He had a way of pushing you out of your comfort zone...but with a nudge, not a push. He had a way of making you think about what you did and how you did it and challenged you to think differently...with a nudge, not a push. I take on the same teaching philosophy with my students and residents. trying to embrace my inner Bob.

May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Marc Taub