On October 12, 2016, Jean Fourcroy died peacefully in the warm environment of a dementia care facility in Sykesville, Maryland, where she had spent the last year well cared for and visited almost daily by her husband.

"I've lived a good life"
Jean Fourcroy- Behr MD, PhD, MPH.

“I always wanted to become a doctor” is something Jean said, but she could never explain why.

Sallie Jean Long was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1930 and attended public school in New Haven and New York City.

Her father was a Presbyterian Minister, and her mother, a teacher and writer.
Her grandmother, Sallie was an English dancer who had settled on a farm in New Jersey, and had an early influence on Jean. Grandmother then moved to Northern California. In 1945, by Jean’s mother left her husband in New York, and took Jean to California, where she finished high school.

In 1948, Jean started college at the UC- Berkeley, majoring in Pre-Med. She married Louis Fourcroy, and left school to work so that husband Lou could attend graduate school.

In 1962 Jean knew she had to finish college. With 4 small children, including 1 in diapers, she managed to complete her B.S. at San Jose State University in 1964 and M.S in 1967.

At San Jose she lectured and taught laboratories in embryology & comparative anatomy. This experience made Jean realize that she needed a Ph.D., so she went to UC- San Francisco completing her PhD requirements in 1972.

Jean then realized that she really did want to be a physician, but UCSF would not accept her into their medical school. Instead, she next moved her three California adolescents to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to join the 3rd-year students at Women’s Medical College. The move east did not work for the children, who were taken back to Pablo Alto at the end of the year. Jean earned her MD in 1974 at what was, by then, the Medical College of Pennsylvania.
Following medical school, Jean arrived in Washington, D.C., to take a Residency in Surgery & Urology at George Washington University, and was the first woman resident in that department.

She passed the Board Certification exam in Urology in 1981, becoming only the 5th woman certified in Urology.

During the 2nd year of her residency she met and married Armin Behr. They bought a home in Bethesda, Maryland, which they shared until Jean’s death.

Jean entered the U.S. Navy in 1980 following a short volunteer consulting practice with Project Hope in Guatemala. The Navy stationed Jean at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda (Walter Reed Military Medical Center today).

This was ideal since it provided practice in an academic, teaching hospital with a medical school adjacent, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Jean’s research endeavors were enhanced by the Medical Center's location across from the NIH and the ability to collaborate with NIH physicians and scientists. She rose to the rank of Captain.
After leaving active naval service, she joined the urology department at Rutgers Medical School in New Brunswick, NJ, where she did mostly clinical practice but found time for teaching and research.

She remained in the Naval Reserves, consulting and teaching at both USUHS & Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

While teaching at Walter Reed she mentored some of the first women urology residents who were taking the board prep course there. This led to the formation of the Society of Women in Urology - now an organization of more than 600 members.

Jean returned from Rutgers in 1989 to join the FDA, where she worked on a variety of regulatory issues and became an expert on anabolic steroids in sports. She served on the board of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for 10 years, overseeing scientific work to keep U.S. Olympic athletes clean and drug free.

At the same time, she was a leader in a number of medical and scientific societies, such as the American Society of Andrology, American Medical Women’s Association (President, 1996), Medical Women’s International and American Urological Association. She was always mentoring young women starting their careers and always promoting research.

After retiring from FDA at age 70, she spent another 10 years consulting with more than a dozen pharmaceutical companies. She showed them how to design research studies that would help them obtain FDA approval. This was perhaps the happiest part of her
career, with no bosses, lots of people who valued her opinion, and the ability to travel the world attending meetings at her expense. She would never have quit, had illness not taken charge when she was in her 80’s.

In 2014 George Washington University Medical School decided to set up a program to give small grants to urology residents for expenses in carrying out a research project. It was named for Jean and has already yielded three good studies.

Jean leaves her husband of 39 years, Armin Behr, daughter Margarite Fourcroy (Daniel Howes), sons John Fourcroy (Cathy), Antone Fourcroy (Kathy), and Michel Fourcroy; grandchildren Matthew, Daniel, Emily, Isabelle and Grant, and two great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, you could make a small donation to the Jean Fourcroy Research Award, payable to George Washington University and sent to GWU School of Medicine, Office of Development & Alumni Relations, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 355E, Washington D.C. 20037.

A Memorial Service will be held on January 28, 2017 at 2:00pm at the Cosmos Club, 2121 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. If you plan to attend, please contact < abehr311@gmail.com >