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## ROGER GOLLUB



Dr. Roger Edward Gollub, 53, died Nov. 19, 2008. He was killed by a snowmachine during his much-anticipated first run driving a sled dog team outside Kotzebue.

Dr. Gollub was born July 31, 1955, in Manhattan, N.Y., the second of two sons of Myron and Sheila Gollub. Raised in St. Louis from 1960 onward, he was captain of the track team and valedictorian of University City High School in 1973. He attended Yale University and received a bachelor's degree in engineering and applied science in 1977. An avid runner, he represented the United States at the 10th

Maccabiah Games in Israel and held one of the fastest mile times in Yale history.

In 1981, he received his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where he met the love of his life, Diane Abrahams. They were married Sept. 4, 1983. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University Hospitals in Cleveland.

Joining the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service, he served as a pediatrician in Gallup, N.M., from 1984-88. He was a member of the Epidemic Intelligence Service Program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and worked for the Colorado Department of Health in Denver from 1988-1990. He was area epidemiologist for the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service from 1990 to 2001.

Dr. Gollub was co-chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Albuquerque Area Indian Health Service (IHS) from 1992-94 and was national IRB co-chair from 1994 to 2001. In 2001, the Gollub family moved to Anchorage. He worked at the Alaska Native Medical Center as the primary care pediatrician for approximately 1,600 Alaska Native children, many with complex needs, from 2001-08. He was dedicated and passionate about Head Start and served as liaison to the local Head Start program. Dr. Gollub retired from the U.S. Public Health Service in September 2008. Recognized as one of the best public health physicians in the country, he received the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service in 1996 and the IHS National Director's Award in 2005.

An expert amateur radio operator since age 13, he was known around the world as WBOCMZ. He mastered Morse code and was the fastest CW transmitter many had met. Ham radio was his hobby; he provided emergency communications for several disasters.

His family wrote: "Always seeing the beauty in life, and an accomplished musician, photographer, and eager outdoorsman, he hiked many mountains with his family and beloved dog, Sophie. He ran several marathons, and went on daily long runs with his daughter, Sarah.

"Roger's dedication to community and family and his belief in human dignity was evident in everything he did," his family wrote. "He valued learning, asking questions, and sharing knowledge. He believed that the pursuit of knowledge was a community endeavor. His definition of community is unique and is part of his legacy for all those who were lucky to have discussions with him. He often discussed with his daughter, Anna, that community was defined by mutual need and common goals, in addition to shared interests, location, culture and values. His definition took into account different perceptions, changing values and conflicting goals. Community, to him, was not just a unit but something that we build together."

Dr. Gollub was passionate about community-based participatory research, an approach to research that includes the community in the research process. He had been developing a community health project design to study Head Start programs in Alaska. The Gollub family established a memorial fund for his visions to be realized. Contributions can be made to the Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, account number 1429780. The family invites the community to contribute to the Dr. Roger Gollub Community Web site, a place

to learn, foster community, and follow the progress of the project. Visit [www.drrogergollubcommunity.org](http://www.drrogergollubcommunity.org).

A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the Gathering Room at Southcentral Foundation, 4501 Diplomacy Drive.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Diane Abrahams-Gollub; daughters, Anna and Sarah; brother, David, and mother, Sheila.

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