

## We remember Robert Daniel "Dan" Benz this Thursday



R. Daniel "Dan" Benz sadly passed away on Friday, August 13, 2021. He was a long-time GTA member and shaped the content of the Excellence in Science Award ceremony for many years. If you were a member during his tenure as Master of Ceremonies, he was likely one of the top reasons you wanted to attend the annual meeting! His ability to make a scientific conference fun is a gift unpossessed by many and will truly be missed. Dan also organized a SAR/in silico workshop under the auspices of the GTA, long before most people could spell SAR. In addition, he organized and presented at other GTA sessions, and was the GTA's first webmaster.

Dan passed peacefully at home with his wife, Bernadette Benz and sons Zach and Nick at his side. He was 74 years old and had been under treatment for stage 4 esophageal cancer for the past three years. GTA Members and those who knew Dan are welcomed to attend a visitation at the invitation of Bernadette Benz.

View Dan's obituary, send flowers, or share a memory here: [Robert Daniel "Dan" Benz, PhD. Obituary](#)

### A visitation will be held:

Thursday, August 19, 2021, 6-8 PM EDT  
Pumphrey ROCKVILLE Funeral Home  
300 W. Montgomery Ave  
Rockville, MD

Masks required, please only fully vaccinated visitors, and the indoor visit should be kept brief. Valet parking provided at their small lot, or use street parking where permitted.



Dan served 25 years with the U.S. FDA in both the Center for Applied Nutrition and in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. He was part of the core group establishing the use of computational toxicology methodologies for predicting drug safety at FDA. In that capacity, he established research collaborations with several companies developing computational toxicology (Q)SAR models, served on FDA committees to finalize the ICH M7 Guideline, and tirelessly educated and promoted the use computational methods. In addition to the GTA, he was very active in several other professional societies, especially the Association of Government Toxicologists (AGT) and the Environmental Mutagen Society (EMGS). He authored 31 publications with over 1400 citations, and numerous posters and presentations including organizing several key (Q)SAR symposia and workshops.