

In Memoriam: Dr. Arnold Mitnitski

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on behalf of

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In Memoriam: Dr. Arnold Mitnitski

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dr. Arnold Mitnitski, a retired faculty member and Professor Emeritus of Medicine, passed away on May 26th, 2021, after a brief illness.

Dr. Mitnitski was a loving grandfather and a great inspiration to his two grandchildren who follow in his footsteps in medicine and science. A brilliant, kind, and humble man, with a deep appreciation of music, Dr. Mitnitski was much beloved and admired by a wide range of friends and colleagues.

An established mathematician and scientist in the former Soviet Union, Dr. Mitnitski moved to Halifax in 2000. An applied mathematician (M Electrical Engineering, and PhD in Theoretical Mechanics/Applied Mathematics, St-Petersburg 1973), Dr. Mitnitski joined the Geriatric Medicine Research team at Dalhousie Medical School as Assistant Professor in 2002 and devoted his work to the mathematical aspects of aging. As part of a longstanding collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Rockwood (Department of Medicine), he developed an integrated measure of human health known as the *Frailty Index*, which now has numerous applications in a variety of areas, including epidemiology, clinical medicine, biology, and most recently even in macro-economics.

Dr. Mitnitski's fundamental contributions to understanding frailty drew international attention and, in 2020, he was made University Research Professor of Medicine. He was a Fellow of the American Gerontological Society (GSA), and received several distinctions, including a Dalhousie University Research Professorship (2011), given only to a limited number of individuals. His research has been published in over 100 peer-reviewed papers, and he was a well-recognized presenter at many national and international scientific meetings.

Dr. Mitnitski was honoured to have been acknowledged as Professor Emeritus of Medicine. He had a special love for Dalhousie, and especially the opportunities afforded to him by the Department of Medicine. Donations in his memory can be made to the [QEII Research Foundation](#), or the [Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation](#), both long-time supporters of his outstanding contributions to science and to health care.