Margaret Grace Stineman, emeritus professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, died at Simpson House retirement community on July 9. She was 67.

Dr. Stineman earned a BFA in painting and sculpture from Tyler School of Art in 1974. After completing her degree, she won a prestigious scholarship—the Prix de Rome, for her outstanding painting ability. She was to study in Italy for two years, but the selection committee rescinded the scholarship after the physical exam due to her physical limitations. Her mother arranged for her to go to Rome anyway, where she stayed for a year and returned to the Temple School of Art International Programs. Dr. Stineman returned to Philadelphia and earned a BFA in drawing from Drexel in 1981. She earned her medical degree from Pennsylvania University two years later.

After graduating, Dr. Stineman came to Penn as a resident and was hired as an instructor in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. From 1987 to 1989, she was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar and instructor, and then a lecturer in the department of general medicine. In 1992, she became an associate professor in rehabilitation medicine. She went on to become an associate and then full professor. She also held a secondary position as an associate professor in general internal medicine. In 2008, Dr. Stineman became an associate professor in biostatistics and epidemiology as well as an acting on a clinical position in rehabilitation with CPUP and serving as a professor in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics. She also served as a site chair and director for research in the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation and was a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Dr. Stineman retired and earned emeritus status in 2014.

Dr. Stineman received uninterrupted NIH funding beginning in 1990 for a broad range of projects applying quantitative and qualitative methods to examine the study of the rehabilitation of patients with disabilities related to neurological disorders, pain, loss, and other disabling conditions. She and her colleagues developed a patient classification approach—a function related groups (FRG)—using sophisticated health services statistical methods to create patient categories based upon care needs. This work forms the basis for Medicare’s national payment system for inpatient rehabilitation.

She worked with Dr. Carl Granger and pioneered the Functional Independence Measure (FIM) that would become the standard for measuring progress during a patient’s inpatient rehabilitation stay. Prediction of patient outcomes was an area she excelled in, particularly for persons with strokes. The FIM was related to resource use and outcomes during inpatient rehabilitation. She and her colleagues developed a Diagnostic Complexity Index for rehabilitation that captured the influence of comorbidities on functional independence and resource use.

The foundation for her work has been an expanded biopsychosocial model that views interactions between the person and the environment as contributing to illness and disability. It is this ecological framework that has inspired her conviction that medical interventions should move beyond the person to include the environment in which or she he lives.

Dr. Stineman’s distinguished and remarkable career includes over 146 scientific peer-reviewed publications. Her awards include some of the most prestigious in the field of rehabilitation. She won Elizabeth and Sidney Licht Award for Excellence in Scientific Writing from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine twice—1997 and 2001. Dr. Stineman was the first recipient of the Carolyn L. Braddom EdD Research Award from the Association of Academic Physiatrists. She was an inaugural recipient of the Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine distinction in 2002, and in that year also won Penn Medicine’s Samuel Martin Health Sciences Evaluation Research Award. The Distinguished Academician Award from the Association of Academic Physiatrists was presented to her in 2004. Dr. Stineman received the Gold Key Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine.

Dr. Stineman served as a national leader for the NIH. She was a member of the National Advisory Board on Medical Rehabilitation Research from 1997 to 2000, then she chaired the board from 2002 to 2007. In this role Dr. Stineman left her mark on the direction of research in rehabilitation that has improved the lives of countless patients benefiting from research funded by the National Institute for Medical Rehabilitation Research. She served on the long-range planning committee for NIDRR from 2002 to 2006. She was a Secretarial appointee to the Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Prosthetics and Special Disabilities.

Dr. Stineman was elected to the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine (Almanac October 19, 2010 (https://almanac.upenn.edu/archive/volumes/v57/n11/101011.html#iom)), and the Association of American Physicians (2011). She earned the Drexel Alumni Award (Almanac May 15, 2008 (https://almanac.upenn.edu/archive/volumes/v54/n15/080515.html#iom)), and the Prince Salman Award for Disability Research (Almanac December 15, 2014 (https://almanac.upenn.edu/archive/volumes/v61/n17/141215.html#iom)). She also served on the University Council’s Personnel Benefits Committee.

According to a tribute by Timothy R. Dillingham, The William J. Erdman II Professor and chair of the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation and was a senior fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Dr. Stineman retired and earned emeritus status in 2014.

Margaret Grace Stineman, MD, truly embodied her middle name Grace, “showing grace, kindness, and humility while excelling in her profession and achieving national and international prominence. She sought so many of our lives and are all better for having the privilege of knowing and working with her. One of her many legacies is the gift of inspiration that she brought to the Penn community.”

According to Neville Strumpf, professor of nursing and dean emerita in the School of Nursing and longtime colleague and collaborator of Dr. Stineman on a large NIH study and a doctoral dissertation. “She was a brilliant, brave, and gentle person, who struggled against enormous physical odds. She was generous, witty, uncomplaining, and among many talents, a fine artist. Margaret made an astonishing contribution to rehabilitation medicine and geriatrics, and to the mentoring of students, fellows and young investigators.”

Dr. Stineman is survived by her mother, Peggy Stineman. In lieu of flowers, people could donate to the Dr. Margaret Grace Stineman Resident Research Award at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. Cheques should be made payable to “Thousends of the University of Pennsylvania” and mailed to Penn Medicine Development, Attn: Sheryl Garton, 3155 Market St., Ste. 700, Philadelphia, PA 19104. There will be no memorial service due to the coronavirus pandemic.