

In Memory of Zack Boukydis Ph.D.



“The parents are the experts of their own baby”

This Program is dedicated to supporting the Close Collaboration with Parents Training Program and the programs, professionals and organizations that support the parent-infant relationship in the perinatal period.

“He could make everyone feel special.” Many people told me this after my husband, Zack passed away. He had a genuine curiosity about people and a unique way of listening that created a kindred feeling with others.

However, not that many people knew Zack as a private person. I feel grateful for being his partner in life, his wife and the mother of our daughter. There are many great moments in a marriage, things we will always remember. I will never forget that special morning when we found out we were going to have a baby. We had wanted a child for a while and were touched and overjoyed. For Zack, the wonderful news was even more meaningful. He would finally become a father after working with babies and families for over 25 years. When our little girl was born he was the happiest man in the world.

Before and after the birth of our daughter people often said: ***Oh, it's so easy for you because Zack is an expert on babies.*** We just quietly replied: ***We are parents for the first time, and he is a dad.*** Zack always worked to set all of this aside so he could enjoy fatherhood. He was getting to know his daughter, an experience as unique for him as for any other first-time father.

Zack believed his work was a calling. He had generations of doctors and nurses in his family. There were many influences in his life that led him to this special field of psychology, working with parents and infants and perinatal professionals. After living in the United States for a number of years, we decided to move to Hungary to be close to family. Of course, it took time to adjust to our new life, but Zack was able to find the collaboration in Europe he was looking for. He also received the professional recognition that he deserved.

Zack continued working throughout his illness, mostly volunteering his time to train, teach and consult with parents and professionals. His death was unexpectedly sudden and a shock for everyone.

My hope for this trust foundation is that it will carry on his work and everything he believed in.

Laura Bavalics