

William McBride, Who Warned About Thalidomide, Dies at 91

By [Neil Genzlinger](#)

July 15, 2018

William McBride, who was among the first doctors to sound an alarm about thalidomide, the sedative found to cause birth defects, but whose later career was marred by accusations of falsified research results and other misconduct, died on June 27 in Australia. He was 91.

His son David announced the death on Facebook. The location and cause were not given.

In the spring of 1961, at Crown Street Women’s Hospital in Sydney, Australia, Dr. McBride, an obstetrician, delivered a baby who had malformed arms and other problems. Within a few weeks he had delivered two more. In a letter published in the medical journal *The Lancet* that December, he noted that what seemed to connect the patients was a drug he had prescribed for morning sickness, thalidomide (known in Australia as Distaval).

About the same time, a German doctor, Widukind Lenz, had made the same connection and documented cases all over Germany. The drug was quickly banned or pulled from the market in one country after another.

[Show Full Article](#)