

Robert Blizzard, Who Gave Children Hormones to Grow, Dies at 94

By Randi Hutter Epstein

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Robert M. Blizzard, a pediatric endocrinologist who was in the vanguard of mid-20th-century doctors who forged a new medical frontier by using hormones to boost the height of thousands of children, died on Sunday at his home in Charlottesville, Va. He was 94.

His assistant, Pam Breeden, confirmed the death.

Dr. Blizzard, who achieved global renown in his field and was long associated with the University of Virginia School of Medicine, liked to say that he had helped add 11 miles of height to the United States population. He was referring not only to his own patients, hundreds of them, but also to those helped by a national agency he founded that increased the amount of height-promoting hormone available.

Many of the recipients had been told that they would never reach four feet, but with hormone shots they climbed to upward of 5 feet 3 inches.

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