



Atul Janardhan Butte

AUG 26, 1969 - JUN 13, 2025



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Atul Janardhan Butte

AUG 26, 1969 - JUN 13, 2025

A tul Janardhan Butte or Atul J. Butte was an American biomedical informatician, pediatrician, and biotechnology entrepreneur. He was the Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg Distinguished Professor at the University of California, San Francisco. Since April 2015, Butte has served as inaugural director of UCSF's Bakar Computational Health Sciences Institute. Dr. Butte died on June 13, 2025 at age 55.

Butte was born in Philadelphia to Janardhan Butte and Mangala Butte. He attended Brown University, where he studied computer science as an undergraduate student. As a member of the school's Program in Liberal Medical Education he was guaranteed acceptance to Brown's Alpert Medical School, where he obtained his MD in 1995.

Butte completed a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology, both at Children's Hospital Boston. In 2004, he completed a Ph.D. from the Harvard–MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology, supervised by Dr. Isaac Kohane.

Butte moved to California and became an assistant professor at Stanford University in 2005. He later became the Chief of the Division of Systems Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital where he held the position of an associate professor of pediatrics and (by courtesy) computer science and immunology & rheumatology. He moved to the University of California, San Francisco in 2015.

In April 2012, Butte delivered a TEDMED talk describing his lab's development of techniques using massive amount of publicly available biomedical research data to make new discoveries without running a wet-lab and actually outsourcing experiments using <https://assaydepot.com>.

Butte has an h-index of over 110 and is recognized by Publons as a highly cited researcher with over 70,000 citations. He has also founded two biotechnology companies (Personalis and NuMedii) and wrote one of the first books on microarray analysis, *Microarrays for an Integrative Genomics*.



Obituary

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Butte lived with his wife, Gini Deshpande, a cancer biology and biotechnology entrepreneur, and daughter in Menlo Park, CA. As of 2018, Deshpande was the chief executive officer of NuMedii, an artificial intelligence technology company. His brother Manish J. Butte is a pediatrician at University of California, Los Angeles.

In 2013, Butte was recognized as an Open Science Champion of Change by the White House. In 2015, he was elected a member of the National Academy of Medicine. In 2021, Butte was elected as a Fellow of the International Society for Computational Biology. In 2022, he became a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2024, he received the Award for Excellence in Molecular Diagnostics from the Association for Molecular Pathology and the Morris F. Collen Award of Excellence from the American College of Medical Informatics.





Events


Atul Janardhan Butte

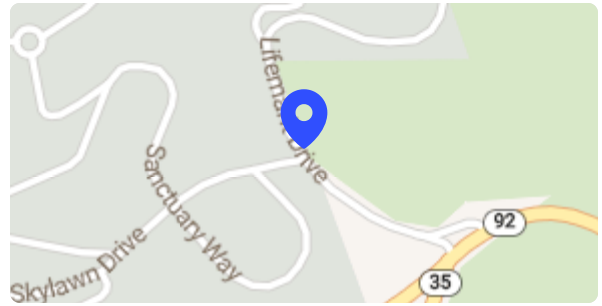
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Funeral

 **Friday**, June 20, 2025

 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM PT

 **Lifemark Center at Skylawn Memorial Park**
Lifemark Center at Skylawn Memorial Park, San
Mateo CA 94402





Tribute Wall

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Estrella Garcia lit a candle in honor of Atul.

I only had the privilege of chatting with Dr. Butte once at a retreat my department held. He was such a nice human being and always had a huge smile on his face. His accomplishments are mind-blowing and yet, he was so humble. I will always remember the story he shared at that retreat about his first job...he would charge his schoolmates 25 cents to solve their Rubik's Cube after they would mix it up beyond repair! That goes to show his brilliant mind was made to problem-solve from a young age. This is a great loss for our UCSF Community and far beyond. Peace and blessings to his family.



June 24 at 8:49 AM



Anonymous sent a virtual gift in honor of Atul.

Dear ATUL, T genius of T Genome theory describe,philosopher,everything. It's hard to believe that u r no more to inform about or update genetics. Paramita grant mokha n peace to this unique precious soul. I will always take pride to b a part n hear to t fabulous informative seminar of yours @Govt Medical college Sambhajinagar,Maharashtra,BHARAT. It's thru your research we came to know abt a special medicinal branch/science,Genes n Genetics. R.I.P. Om Shanti



June 21 at 10:53 AM



Russ Altman posted:

Atul was a colleague and inspiration. He was a joy to speak with and was filled with life and enthusiasm. He will be greatly missed.

June 19 at 10:28 PM



Quan Chen, Ph.D (Retired Nih Colleague) sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Butte family.



June 18 at 9:34 AM



Quan Chen, Ph.D (Retired Nih Colleague) planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Atul.



June 18 at 9:34 AM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Butte family.

June 17 at 3:37 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Atul.

June 17 at 11:23 AM



Anonymous sent a Days of Sunshine Bouquet to the Butte family.

June 17 at 11:23 AM



Anonymous sent a Serene Reflections Bouquet to the Butte family.

June 17 at 10:53 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Atul.

June 17 at 10:53 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Atul by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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