



## Dr. Ellen Elizabeth Gillis

October 6, 1988 - June 23, 2021

Ellen Elizabeth Gillis

Dr. Ellen Elizabeth Gillis passed away suddenly this past Wednesday, June 23rd, while at work at Augusta University. She was 32. She born and raised in Memphis, TN and graduated from Briarcrest High School. She received her BS in Psychology from Furman University and then earned her PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

Dr. Gillis was most recently with the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University in Augusta, GA where she was a senior postdoctoral fellow. Her work focused on hypertension with an interest in the impact on women. Dr. Gillis's work was highly regarded by the scientific community and her most recent studies on the impact of kidney injury on future pregnancy outcomes was supported by a highly competitive K99 Pathway to Independence Award from the Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. She had already received two American Heart Association grants and was honored with a Hypertension Early Career Award from the AHA in addition to numerous other honors for her research and service. She was a productive, inspired scientist and a fiercely loyal friend to all who knew and worked with her.

Her work will continue and she will be remembered for her incredibly sweet nature that earned her friends wherever she went. Dr. Gillis was a Christian and a member of Covenant Baptist Church of Collierville, TN. While her life on

this Earth is over, she is now starting her eternal life with Jesus in Heaven. She leaves behind her mother, Margaret Gillis and brother, John Gillis of Olive Branch, MS and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, Jerry Gillis of Olive Branch, MS, and her grandparents, Luther and Mary Ruby of Memphis, TN and John and Rose Della Gillis of Carthage, MS.

Her funeral services will be handled by Wilcox Funeral Home in Carthage, MS. The visitation will be Saturday, July 3rd at 11:30 am with the services at 1:00 pm. It will be followed by a graveside service at the cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation in Ellen's memory to the American Heart Association that helped fund her work.

# Cemetery Details

## Wiggins

Hw 16 West  
Carthage, MS 39051

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 3. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Wilcox Funeral Home  
106 S Jordan Street  
Carthage, MS 39051  
(601) 267-8081  
wilcoxfh@netdoor.com  
<https://www.wilcoxfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUL 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Wilcox Funeral Home  
106 S Jordan Street  
Carthage, MS 39051  
(601) 267-8081  
wilcoxfh@netdoor.com  
<https://www.wilcoxfuneralhome.com/>

## Burial

JUL 3 (CT)

Wiggins

Hw 16 West

Carthage, MS 39051

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ *Ellen was such a sweet spirit. My condolences to the family. Rest In Peace, Dr. Ellis.*

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**Keisa Mathis** - August 21, 2021 at 08:03 AM

BW

“ *As a graduate of MCG, I knew Ellen from our extensive network overlap. But our first real interaction was on the Women in Physiology Committee in APS. I knew at that moment she would not only be successful professionally, but that she was a loyal and kind person. Since then, I have seen her at almost every meeting, and it was always a pleasure. She will be missed, and has left a hole that cannot be filled.*

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**Brandi M. Wynne** - July 21, 2021 at 07:55 PM

AM

“ I was fortunate to get to know Ellen Gillis and about her very impactful work while she was a graduate student. She tackled very important, yet complicated, scientific issues that arise in women and during pregnancy with determination and clarity. I was so proud of her when, as a post-doc, she submitted her study on AKI and impact on pregnancy as corresponding author to the J. Am Soc. Nephrology. Reviewers were so impressed by this study that editorials were written about the publication. These accomplishments will live on after Dr. Gillis as others will build upon her models and results.

*I was also fortunate to get to know Ellen Gillis as a friend and her joy and open heart will stay with me. My deep condolences to her family, mentors and co-workers.*

*Alicia McDonough*

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**Alicia McDonough** - July 21, 2021 at 01:38 PM

EB

“ Although I never had the pleasure of working with Ellen, I enjoyed interacting with her at many conferences over the years and watching as her career progressed. Indeed, I had started utilizing Ellen as a scientific manuscript reviewer owing to her expertise. It's tragic to see such a promising young scientist's life cut short and be left with all the professional "what-if"s, but the loss to her family and friends is beyond measure. Keeping you all in my thoughts, and I will always remember Ellen fondly.

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**Erika Boesen** - July 07, 2021 at 03:19 PM

AM

“ Dear Gillis Family -

*I was not a close friend of Dr. Gillis, but instead a somewhat distant professional colleague. We were from different Universities, but often saw each other at scientific meetings because we had similar research areas, and were students at the same time. We attended networking functions together, scientific poster sessions, and occasionally competed for the same awards. Ellen was always a friendly face that I looked forward to saying hello to when our paths crossed. She was an academic force to be reckoned with, but was always friendly, warm, and approachable.*

*After reading her obituary, I learned she identified as a Christian (as I also do). I wanted to tell you that although Ellen and I never had the privilege of a conversation about our faith, I was not surprised to learn this. She embodied and exuded all of the characteristics that would have indicated so, even if it was not known to all of her colleagues. I hope there is some comfort during this incredibly difficult time in knowing your daughter was a light in many lives. May she rest in peace.*

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**AMS** - July 05, 2021 at 11:01 PM

CW

“ While we only knew Ellen briefly, she was a beautiful soul and great scientist who will be deeply missed. RIP Ellen. Camilla and Cam

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**Camilla F. Wenceslau** - July 04, 2021 at 11:38 AM

EG

“ Deeply saddened. She was very energetic and had such a sweet personality that impacted all of us. She will be missed beyond measure.

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**Eman Gohar** - July 02, 2021 at 06:11 PM

PO

“ Ellen, our hearts of broken. Your energy cannot be replaced. Your life has impacted us all so much. Rest in peace Dr Gillis.

Paul O'Connor - July 02, 2021 at 01:28 PM

SC

“ Though Ellen and I had lost touch after college, we had a lot of fun as Kappa sisters and we enjoyed sharing a Memphis connection via my now-husband, who also grew up there (every time we were all together at a Kappa event, inevitably we'd all yell out "Memphis!" and flash a little M with our fingers to "rep" the city - such a silly little thing, but a great memory). It's amazing to see all that she accomplished in the years that followed our time at Furman--she made an impact and will be missed.

Sarah Schiavoni Catmur - July 02, 2021 at 12:43 PM

LG

“ Lawrence G. purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Dr. Ellen Elizabeth Gillis.



Lawrence G. - July 02, 2021 at 08:03 AM

AC

“ I know you will be watching over us all; Especially when we try our luck at Disney trivia. You are already greatly missed ❤️

Amanda Cliett - July 01, 2021 at 11:04 PM

JP

“ I was so lucky to know Dr. Gillis, and I had been so looking forward to knowing her as a colleague for years to come. All my thoughts and prayers are with her family now.

Jen Pluznick - July 01, 2021 at 08:21 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Ellen Elizabeth Gillis.



July 01, 2021 at 05:46 PM

AE

“ Ellen was such inspirational to so many around her including her senior colleagues. Last Friday I was reading her most recently funded grant from NIH to learn more about her career plans. Her personal statement made me smile as she started in an unusual way. An hour later, I found out about her untimely death 2 days before. I felt like she was smiling at me from heaven. May her light be eternal and keep shining on so many who loved her. She will be forever missed.

Adviye Ergul - July 01, 2021 at 02:57 PM

AE

“ Adviye Ergul sent a virtual gift in memory of Dr. Ellen Elizabeth Gillis



Adviye Ergul - July 01, 2021 at 02:52 PM