

Dr. Moisés Aptecar

Moisés Aptecar, “Misha”, was the cardiologist who developed one of the model Departments of Cardiology in the country. His wife, Fanny Mindlin de Aptecar, “Coque”, always worked with him and developed the Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit in the same institution.

He was one of the leading authorities in the field of exercise stress testing and published many research articles.

The *Sanatorio Antártida* was his field of action where he started with one of the model Coronary Care Units with a residence program that brought together a group of young physicians working in the areas of clinical cardiology and catheterization laboratory, and cardiovascular surgeons. I had the privilege to belong to that group.

His target was excellence in medical care, teaching and research. He took care of keeping the members of the medical staff up-to-date with the specialty and helped them to attend congresses and specialization courses. In 1980 the *Sanatorio Antártida* organized a cardiology course with the presence of prominent national and international physicians as Dr. Carlos Bertolasi and Dr. René Favalaro, and Dr. Kanu Carterjee and Dr. Jay Cohn, respectively. All the members of the Department of Cardiology also participated. He had fluid command of languages and was a kind host; these qualities contributed to maintain these links throughout his whole life.

He encouraged us to develop new techniques, supporting the acquisition of emerging technologies as the catheterization laboratory, the echocardiography laboratory and equipment to measure physiological parameters in the Coronary Care Unit, thus producing a great development of cardiovascular surgery.

It is important to remember that the first coronary angioplasty in the country was performed at his Department of Cardiology.

In times of economic crisis when medical care was especially difficult, “Misha” made a huge effort to support his department and incorporated several cardiologists who collaborated with their medical practice.

“Misha” continued working together with his wife “Coque” until the *Sanatorio Antártida* was closed in 1995; from that moment, he kept his interest for the specialty live attending courses and congresses of cardiovascular diseases, and reading constantly.

His three children Eduardo, Susana and Eugenia, who gave him seven grandchildren, also work in the medical field.

What more can I say of a friend who has gone and of whom I have learned a lot about life and medicine...? I believe that Dr. Aptecar is an example of humanism and professional dedication for young physicians embracing the specialty, as both qualities are especially necessary for this career.

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