

Alberto R. Lapuente, M.D. (1938-2011)

*There is no end. There is no beginning.
There is only the infinite passion of life.*

FEDERICO FELLINI

Alberto was a passionate human being. He was moved by friendship, music, art, history and present. He was moved by medicine and cardiology.

Alberto began his career as cardiologist at *Hospital Alvear* and at the *Instituto Hermenegilda Pombo de Rodríguez*, where he earned teachers and friends. He was taken to the “Pombo” by his friend, Dr. De Leone, who was also from Haedo neighborhood, and became resident at the Department of Cardiology guided by Dr. Abel Bengolea and Dr. Albertal. Along with Dr. Eliseo Segura, among others, they founded one of the first coronary care units in Argentina. In the same institution, he participated with them in outstanding research studies on animals.

Shortly before, he met and married Alicia, of whom he had been neighbor and teacher aide at the *Colegio Nacional de Morón*. The birth of their children Cecilia and Diego, and then their triplets, Mariano, Ana Laura and Eleonora, was a challenge that filled his life with vitality, love and new experiences.

We should also emphasize the pleasure he showed in caring for others: his patients, the doctors around him, and his friends.

In the seventies, he joined the Department of Cardiology of the then-called *Hospital Castex* (*Hospital*

Eva Perón today) in San Martín neighborhood, with the guidance of Dr. Bein (who died tragically shortly afterwards). Dr. Rubén Posse took over the new Cardiology Fellowship Program in the Department, and there, he developed his amazing teaching ability, who left a mark on those who followed him. He gathered abstracts, publications, awards. Later on, he became Chief of Department, and at the time of his death, he was advisor to the Hospital Directorate and member of the Board of Directors.

He participated intensively in all the areas of our Argentine Society of Cardiology. He was founding member and director of the Council on Cardiovascular Emergency Care and the West Conurbation District. In all those areas, he encouraged the creativity, the interest in good medicine, the clinical research and the need to express it through the written word, combined with remarkable solidarity with others and profound social sensitivity.

Always surrounded by friends, many of whom were physicians, he stood out for his paused, thoughtful and optimistic talk. Music deserves a special chapter; it was his passion until the final hours of his cruel disease.

We will never forget him. The Argentine Society of Cardiology and those who enjoyed him –his friends, his patients– will always remember him in our decisions.

Alberto Giniger, M.D.^{MTSAC}