

Dr Enrique Pablo Gurfinkel



Dr Gurfinkel was 53 years old. He graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Buenos Aires in 1982 and obtained a PhD from the same university in 1995. He completed the residency program in cardiology at the Hospital Juan A. Fernández from 1984 and 1988, was instructor resident between 1988 and 1989 and was selected staff physician of the coronary care unit after a process involving examinations and interviews at the same hospital in 1989. In 1992 he became the first Chief of the Coronary Care Unit at the recently opened Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, Favalaro Foundation; in March 2008 he was appointed Chief of the Chest Pain Unit and two months later he became Chief of the Department of Cardiology at the University Hospital, Favalaro Foundation. In 2010 he was appointed Clinical Investigator of the CONICET and became Academic Director of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences of the Favalaro University. He was Full Member of the Argentine Society of Cardiology, Member of the Argentine Cooperative Group on Haemostasis and Thrombosis (CAHT group) since 1990 and Member of the Latin American Cooperative Group on Haemostasis and Thrombosis (CLAHT group) since 1991. International Fellow of the Council on Clinical Cardiology, American Heart Association, since 1998; Fellow of the American College of Cardiology since 1999; Honorary Member of the Venezuelan Society of Cardiology since 2000; Honorary Member of the Equatorian Society of Cardiology and of the Magallanes Medical Society (Punta Arenas, Chile) since 2002, and Honorary Member of the Lithuanian Society of Cardiology since 2010. In 2007 represented Latin America as a member in the Joint WHO/ESC/ACCF/AHA/WHF Task Force for the redefinition of myocardial infarction. He took part as principal or associated investigator in more than 30 international and several local studies. He participated as speaker or coordinator, among other activities, in numerous national and international scientific meetings, and as lecturer in more than 100 courses nationwide and outside the country. He was member of the Editorial Board of *Nature Clinical Practice*, Invited Director

for the Supplement G of the *Revista Española de Cardiología* (2004), member of the Editorial Board of the journals “*Insuficiencia Cardíaca*” and of the *Federación Argentina de Cardiología*. He published many clinical investigation studies in journals and written media: 70 in international peer-reviewed journals. Some of these publications were innovative and opened the way to new studies for the management of cardiovascular disease around the world. He was the author of two books and wrote 18 chapters of books as co-author. He received 18 awards and was honored twice with the recognition of the Honorable Senate of the Argentine Republic for scientific work (2003 and 2004). He was fond of running marathons, he loved jazz and saxophone and was a fan of the soccer team *Independiente*. His death produced a great sorrow among national and international cardiology circles. Dr Valentín Fuster said: “This will be a loss to the international community of cardiologists. He was a very good friend of all cardiologists, not only in Latin America, but also of European and non-European cardiologists. He was a good person to work with—efficient, expeditious, responsible. This is a true loss.” (*Heartwire*; May 2, 2011. TheHeart.org). Dr Juan Viles-Gonzalez (Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY), who as a medical student knew Gurfinkel in Buenos Aires, told *Heartwire*: “He was a mentor, a great teacher, and an excellent friend. We will miss him deeply.” Finally, Dr Braunwald (Distinguished Hersey Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School) expressed: “A brilliant light has been extinguished”.

He knew he had a lethal disease but refused to give up. He kept on working until two days before passing away. Only the last night he told the specialist that was treating him: “I’m certain I will not live to see tomorrow; Thank you for all you’ve done”. He dies in Buenos Aires on May 2, 2011. He leaves his wife, Andrea Altman and his children, Natasha and Martin.

His memory will always stay in our hearts.

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