



Carlos Marcelo Nijensohn, M.D.

Dr. Carlos Marcelo Nijensohn, my master, passed away on Saturday, June 11, in Buenos Aires.

Finding a reference to guide one's life is an essential human condition. Carlos played that role both in my professional and personal life.

In 1957, I was fortunate to study Semiology with Professor Isaac Berconsky, M.D., in the Department of Cardiology at Hospital Israelita of Buenos Aires. There, I met Carlos Nijensohn, the alma parens of all advanced initiatives generated by a department that was full of creative activities.

Carlos had been at the Cleveland Clinic together with Irvine Page, A. C. Corcoran, and Harriet Dustan, and had brought with him all the studies on blood pressure and renal physiology from that advanced school whose counterpart in Argentina was managed by Eduardo Braun Menéndez from the Institute of Physiology at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA).

Carlos launched studies on renal function in the Department of Cardiology and its biochemical laboratory, which were uncommon in the local medicine of that time. It was there that I learned from him about clearances, functional tests, and reasoned urine sediment reading. It was that practice and his theoretical knowledge that led him to be an essential member of the "Kidney's Club", a regular meeting with colleagues organized by Braun Menéndez to exchange their knowledge without having to create a formal society, thus avoiding the paraphernalia of elections and positions. The "Kidney's Club" only required discussing an issue related to renal physiology, sharing ideas and having a glass of sherry, on a rotative basis in one of the related departments.

Some interesting works emerged from those years and from the Department of Cardiology group

which developed around Carlos. The most important study was on the concept of conductivity clearance, a description of the electrolyte plasma clearance performed by the kidney, different from the typical osmolar clearance, which was awarded the Sesquicentennial Award of the May Revolution in the Argentine Society of General Internal Medicine.

However, Carlos' ability went beyond the areas of hypertension and renal physiology. Over the past years, he devoted himself passionately to the study of the psychosocial aspects in cardiology, with the same intensity and affection he had devoted to the assessment of glomerular filtration.

As Director of the Argentine Journal of Cardiology and as President of the Society, Carlos always showed kindness, good manners, and understanding, all traits of a great person.

Carlos, I had the sad honor of staying by your side in the final moments of your life, and of writing these lines.

To say goodbye to a master is a distressing task: pain for the loss, only tempered by the gratitude for the joy of having learned from him.

Maybe I should repeat what the pupils of Gorgias of Leontini said to their master, who had been forced to drink hemlock, in his farewell:

"Let us rejoice for those of us who exceed you."

Dr. Saúl Drajer^{MTSAC}

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