



Tribute to Mark Josephson

Last January 11, at the age of 74, Mark Erik Josephson, one of the fathers of modern cardiac clinical electrophysiology, passed away in Boston.

When in 1970s I visited Anthony Damato (one of the first to publish works on clinical electrophysiology) in Staten Island, a medical resident was wearing a white coat with the name 'Mark Josephson' embroidered on it. Back then, I did not know Mark personally, and since he was beginning to lead interesting articles on the topic, I approached him to introduce myself. The resident had the courtesy of explaining that he was not Josephson, but was wearing a coat that had been abandoned. That was my first encounter with Mark, or rather, with his white coat. He was already in Pennsylvania.

I had the privilege and honor of being one of the first (if not the first) from Argentina in attending his service in Philadelphia (Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania) and experiencing first-hand his professional and teaching capacity. The experience was repeated some years later during a brief stay in Boston (Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital), and was enriched with the long personal contact and many meetings of the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. I would like to add Mark's attendance to our Argentine Congress, that I personally managed by delivering the invitation in his own house to convince him of coming to Buenos Aires.

Mark was not only the creative force of a specialty in cardiology but also the person who enhanced it with his genius, built it with a powerful interventionist branch, and dressed it up with the generosity of his constant teaching and his wonderful funny spirit that did not miss the opportunity to tell a joke if the occasion deserved it.

Some of the colleagues who have been lucky enough to share the service with him will confirm what I write with emotion.

He trained or was part of the training of at least two generations of clinical electrophysiologists from around the world, who have Mark's brand name imprinted.

His work remains. The number of original articles he wrote or enriched is ample witness of his contribution to the specialty. And if that were not enough, his amazing book *Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology* fully speaks on his behalf.

Dear Mark, you have gained a permanent position in the history of cardiology. Thank you for your teachings, for your generosity in sharing them with so many people from all over the world, and for your unbeatable sense of humor.

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