



Branco Mautner (1938 -2021)

Branco Mautner, MD, was born in Zagreb (Croatia), in a Europe in turmoil by nationalism and anti-Semitism. Born to Jewish parents, he emigrated with them and his brother to Argentina, where he studied and received his medical degree, specializing in Cardiology.

He began his career in municipal hospitals, initially working at the Inchauspe ward of Hospital Ramos Mejía, and then at Hospital Fernández, where he became Chief of the Coronary Care Unit. In 1985, Dr. Mautner was appointed President of our beloved Society.

Later, at Dr. René Favaloro's request, they worked hand in hand in the creation and development of the Institute of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery (ICYCC) at the Favaloro Foundation. He first served there as Director of the Emergency Department and later became Head of the Teaching and Research Department, from 1999 to 2014. He was Academic Vice Rector of the Favaloro University from 1993 to 2003, and Dean of the School of Medicine from 2003 to 2014, working in those institutions until his retirement.

Branco had a passion for university teaching, and left his legacy in two books of which he was their main editor: *Medicina* (Medicine) (Publishing Center of the Favaloro Foundation) and *Cardiología basada en la experiencia y la evidencia de la Fundación Favaloro* (Experience and Evidence-Based Cardiology of the Favaloro Foundation) (Editorial Mediterránea), already with two editions. He

directed the Specialization Course in Cardiology of the Favaloro University from 1998 to 2018. Due to his commendable career, Dr. Mautner was distinguished as Professor Emeritus at the aforementioned university in 2014.

He was also Fellow Emeritus of the American College of Cardiology, and the Argentine Society of Cardiology paid tribute to his career in December 2020. Those are just some of his achievements.

I met Branco personally in 1992, when we started to work together at the ICYCC of the Favaloro Foundation. I always admired his working capacity and organizational skills, his resilience and intelligence. He also had a fine sense of humor, which made working with him easier and enjoyable. Over the past years, many of us would come to him with a difficult situation, and would always be offered a Solomonic solution. We shared many scientific and social events with him and his lifelong partner, his wife Renéé.

He was protagonist and mentor of the history of Argentine cardiology, particularly of the Favaloro Foundation. Recently, we had the opportunity to attend the presentation of his autobiographical book, *El ovillo de la memoria* (The ball of memory) (Dunken Publishing House), where he narrates his personal life (he had two children, Vanessa and Nicolás) and his academic life.

Because of his personality and career, we will always remember him with affection and respect.

José Horacio Casabé, MD