

IN MEMORIAM



CARLOS A. PRESA, MD (1960-2021)

**Fly high, my friend, leave your
luggage behind you, and rest
in the quiet peace of the universe**

We are truly saddened by the unexpected passing of our dearest colleague Dr. Carlos Presa last April 29, 2021. Over the last two years, his health started to fail on several occasions. However, he was a warrior who fought back and made a comeback to his true passions: teaching, pediatric cardiovascular surgery, and cardiology.

He started his training at the city of La Plata Medical School that he loved so much. He took his first steps in Physiology at Dr. Cingolani Chair where he started his love affair with cardiac anatomy and physiology, a passion he transmitted to residents and students alike. Also, he taught us that embryology was the foundation to be able to understand the dynamics and physiology of congenital heart diseases.

His noble intellectual ambition rested on his inextinguishable curiosity and love for accurate diagnoses, a legacy he had received from his mentors that he unselfishly transmitted often against the dominant mainstream scientific opinion. He was a thinker and knew how to build up a fair conversation despite his stubborn personality, but always with honesty and uncommon shrewdness. Always as the simple man he was.

He was an organized and methodical man who hated improvisations and ambiguous goals, and who loved his profession. He was the first resident in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery at the Hospital de Niños Sor María Ludovica together with Dr. Antelo, Dr. Mon, and Dr. Gutiérrez.

Back in 1988, he won a scholarship in Osaka, Japan.

In 1992, he held a fellowship in Loma Linda University, United States where he was trained on neonatal heart transplant.

Between 1992 and 1993, he decided that neonatal heart transplant would be his specialization and was admitted to the Favaloro Foundation where he was trained in the use of ventricular assist devices in the heart transplant and congenital heart disease setting under the direct supervision of Dr. Roberto Favaloro and his team.

He was a member of the Argentine College of Cardiovascular Surgeons in Buenos Aires where he became a source of inspiration organizing congresses and designing the exams of the pediatric cardiovascular surgeons of the future.

However, he never lost contact with his origins, the city of La Plata or with Hospital de Niños Sor María Ludovica. In 2007 and under the management of Dr. Antelo Carlos he came back to this hospital joining its healthcare personnel.

He improved the professional relation among different units, was involved in training activities, and envisioned a residency in Pediatric Cardiovascular Surgery with excellent results.

We wish to express publicly our gratitude and admiration for his unrelentless service, generosity, and academic achievements.

Gracias por tus virtudes morales, en lo personal, amigo y compañero de ruta, un hasta siempre.

Thank you for your moral virtues. On the personal level, my friend, so long. Many of us, doctors, technicians, and nurses here at Hospital de Niños Sor María Ludovic will always remember you and carry you in our hearts. I hope these few words pay tribute to my friend and partner in crime. Rest in peace, Charly.

Mónica Loyarte, MD

*Hospital de Niños Sor María Ludovica, La Plata,
Buenos Aires.*