

In Memoriam

Marco V. Wainstein



Jorge Pinto Ribeiro was born on April 9, 1955, and died on August 23, 2012, at the age of 57 years. Ribeiro leaves his wife, Cora Helena, and three children, Mariana, Clarissa, and André.

Ribeiro graduated from the Medical School of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in 1978. He did his residency in Internal Medicine at the Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre (HCPA, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil) and moved to Boston, MA, USA, in 1981, where he remained until 1985. In Boston, he obtained his Ph.D. in Applied Physiology from Boston University, graduating with distinction. Simultaneously, he maintained his focus on clinical practice, starting his fellowship in Cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a major hospital of the Harvard Medical School. During his fellowship, he had the opportunity to associate with the great icons of modern cardiology, including Eugene Braunwald, Peter Libby, Peter Ganz, Tom Smith, and Wilson Collucci, among others, actively participating in research projects developed in this environment. His outstanding performance during this period established a fruitful and permanent relationship with Harvard University and its hospitals. As a result, Ribeiro sent a group of his colleagues to that university, including Paul Picon, Luis Eduardo Rohde, Carisi Polanczyk, and Marco Wainstein, so they could also perfect their training. After returning to Porto Alegre, the members of this group played prominent roles in their respective fields.

Upon returning to Brazil and to the HCPA, still as acting a professor of physiology, he became intensely involved in assistance. In 1989, he was a candidate for Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, School of Medicine, UFRGS, and was first among 104 candidates, with an average score of 10. At the Cardiology Service, he began to structure non-invasive diagnostic methods, such as electrocardiogram, echocardiogram, the stress test and ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, exhibiting the same standard of excellence that he maintained in Boston. Later, between 1997 and 2005, Ribeiro became the Head of

the Cardiology Service of HCPA. His term, marked by innovative attitudes, reflected his ethical and dynamic way of working and facing problems. Still at HCPA in the Department of Internal Medicine, he was coordinator of the Research and Graduate Studies Committee, Head of Non-Invasive Methods and Interventional Cardiology, and coordinator of the Postgraduate Course in Clinical Cardiology at UFRGS.

He was primarily responsible for the planning and creation of the Department of Cardiology of the Hospital Moinhos de Vento (Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil), where he had been the Head of the Department since the year 2000.

Ribeiro was a man of often controversial and challenging attitudes, always striving for the best available scientific evidence. He was a researcher of the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq) and a lecturer in Cardiology at the University of São Paulo (USP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil). He began his distinguished career as a researcher, even before moving to the United States, at the Laboratório de Pesquisa do Exercício (LAPEX), UFRGS, under the guidance of the renowned Professor Henrique Eduardo DeRose. It was there that he started his research in the physiopathology of exercise and control of the autonomic nervous system. His activity as a researcher resulted in several publications in important international journals with high impact factors. Throughout his career as a graduate advisor, he mentored 31 master's students and 26 Ph.D. students.

Ribeiro was internationally known as an expert panellist and lecturer, which earned him intense participation in both national and international events. In the realm of leadership, Ribeiro served as vice-president of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia – SBC).

The recognition of his efforts went beyond regional boundaries when the SBC bestowed upon him the "Dedication to Research" award.

In addition to his distinguished work as a researcher, clinical cardiologist, and graduate advisor, Ribeiro had two other great passions: teaching undergraduate students from the Internal Medicine Clinic of the School

of Medicine of UFRGS, and work as an interventional cardiologist. In his later years, he worked very closely with the Brazilian Society of Interventional Cardiology (Sociedade Brasileira de Hemodinâmica e Cardiologia Intervencionista – SBHCI). He actively participated as a speaker at SBHCI congresses, including the most recent, held in Salvador, Bahia. Most recently, Ribeiro was head of the catheterisation lab of HCPA.

Ribeiro was, above all, an enthusiast for life. In addition to passionately performing his work, he maintained an intense family life, enjoyed the company of friends, and was devoted to leisure. A born sportsman, he practiced competitive swimming during his youth, devoting himself thereafter to water-skiing, surfing, and tennis. He also enjoyed gatherings with his friends and

dancing. Ribeiro left us so suddenly. He was victim of a neoplasm for which medicine still offers no effective treatments. His departure leaves us orphaned of his wisdom and wonderful teachings. His greatest living legacy is the group of doctors that he helped to form, who will endeavour to perpetuate his work.

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