

In Memoriam

Teodoro Lazaro

Dr. Teodoro Lazaro died recently after fighting a long illness with his characteristic strength.

He was born in Madrid 50 years ago and graduated from that University in 1968. He did his training in vascular surgery at the Hospital General de Asturias, the only hospital in the country at that time with a structured training program that mirrored the American residency programs. There, for 4 years, I had the privilege of supervising his training and observing his innate surgical skills. Following his residency he did a 2-year fellowship in cardiovascular surgery at McGill University (Montreal, Canada) under Professor Pierre Grondin. After that he dedicated himself exclusively to vascular surgery. In 1977 he became the chief of the Section of Vascular Surgery at Hospital 1 de Octubre in Madrid. This unit eventually became an accredited and prestigious department for the training of vascular surgeons.

Teo Lazaro contributed more than 100 papers to the surgical literature and participated in many national

and international meetings where he presented his findings on his favorite topics, among them his impressive series of reconstructions of the visceral branches of the aorta. He was a member of many scientific societies and was one of the founders of the Society for the Vascular Surgeons of Spanish Language.

More important than his scientific and professional achievements, which are ephemeral, what remains of him is his human profile, his endless vitality, and his peculiar manner of understanding happiness, often through endless hours of work in the operating room, and his tireless dedication to patients.

Despite this frenzy of activity he always found time to share life with his parents, wife, and five children. Completing this impossible circle of activity were his two passions: one was his soccer club, "Real Madrid," and the other, which began early in his youth, was bullfighting. He was an expert on the latter and a sporadic participant in it, with great friendships in the peculiar world of the "tauromaquia."

As I say goodbye to my dear friend and disciple, I wish to note that the so-called "second generation of vascular surgeons" in Spain has lost a charismatic and irreplaceable leader.

Josep M. Capdevila