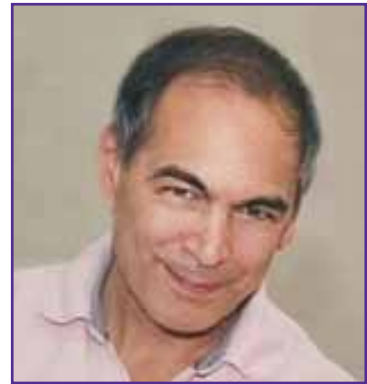


Dr. Aníbal Julio Acuña

Goodbye Aníbal!



On May 7th, 2021, a pandemic Friday, I found myself reading in the WhatsApp group of Residents about the news of the death of Medical Colonel Aníbal Julio ACUÑA, nicknamed by his friends “the Monk”, for he was tall, thin, always with the right word and a frank smile; a man without evil. All of us orthopedists feel enormous grief over the early death of this extraordinary colleague. A great expectation for his great medical qualities was lost. Noted for his reasoning abilities and sagacity to solve the most complicated clinical-surgical issues, of prodigious memory, original, a creator and artist at times. He was born on July 3rd, 1968, in Córdoba, the eldest son of six siblings, one of them stands out: his graceful sister. They moved to Salta where their physician father practiced our profession as an anesthetist. After graduating, he entered the Military Health System with the rank of First Lieutenant Medical Resident of Traumatology and Orthopedics and was discharged on December 31st, 1992. Being the first of his generation, his colleagues were Maxi RODRIGUEZ, Marcelo COTARELO, Pablo RUIZ, Roberto CASTELLI, Fernando GALLO. They attended the residency with two civilian medical colleagues, Gustavo CAPURRO and Víctor DÍAZ MARTINEZ, Colombian. His Chief of Residents and instructor—because he was already a staff member—was the then Medical Captain Carlos Eugenio MARTINEZ. Let us remember that, at that time at the Central Military Hospital, there were two well-characterized teams, represented by two prestigious specialists, Doctors Carlos Manuel Osvaldo VILARIÑO and Ariel Darío BARRERA ORO. A Hand Surgery Service, created by Dr. León A. POCHAT in 1954, separated from the rest of the Department, and was presided by the author of this piece, who allows himself to interpret this man and his circumstances.

In 1995, Dr. Aníbal Julio ACUÑA had his first mission abroad, UNPROFOR CROATIA, former Yugoslavia, where he had his Baptism by Fire on May 31st, when he took part during the offensive of the Serbian Army. He was a member of the Health section of Ca A. He was a member of the mission of “safe passage” of the civilian population to areas out of conflict. All operations were life-threatening, for which he received the UNPROFOR Decoration. His second mission was in 1998 by the UN UNFICYP, in the armed conflict between GREECE and TURKEY on the island of Cyprus. There, he was the first SMO (Senior Medical Officer) of the UNPA (United Nation Protection Area) and he also received a decoration. In 1997, he entered the Hand Surgery Service of the Central Military Hospital, which already had Dr. Fredy Aponte Arrazola as a consultant. He showed his special interest in the specialty studying in parallel with Dr. Carlos ZAIDENBERG, who nicknamed him “the soldier” and with whom he perfected his knowledge for a year. On that occasion, he established a strong friendship with Dr. Álvaro Muratore, current President of the Asociación Argentina de Cirugía de la Mano (Argentine Association of Hand Surgery). In 2000, he married Luciana in Salta, with whom he had four children: Máximo, 18; Augusto, 17; Victoria, 14; and Octavio, 11. In 2003 he was appointed Head of the Hand Surgery Service of the Central Military Hospital, during which time he presented outstanding works, until he became a full member, after having worked in several commissions. In 2006, due to his leadership virtues, he was appointed Chief of Traumatology and Orthopedics at the Campo de Mayo Military Hospital, continuing his career to date, in various positions of increasing hierarchy, until he became the Director of the Campo de Mayo Military Hospital. I must emphasize that he never left his teaching activity for the UBA and the Barceló University. On Sunday, May 9th, we said farewell to him at the Chacarita Cemetery with all the military honors, always accompanied by Denise, his children, all his family, colleagues and friends. Personally, it is very sad to see the loss of a younger colleague; it is not natural to say goodbye to someone who started his first years in the specialty. Many of those named express themselves through my words. Goodbye Aníbal! You will always be in our hearts.

ALEJANDRO J. RAMOS VERTIZ, MD • ramvertiz@fibertel.com.ar  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9836-2314>

How to cite this article: Ramos Vértiz AJ. Obituary. Anibal J. Acuña. *Rev Asoc Argent Ortop Traumatol* 2021; 86 (3) :XXXX. <https://doi.org/10.15417/issn.1852-7434.2021.86.3.1375>