

Pablo José Nuova, M.D.



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Ex-member of the AAOT Committee of Residents and Specialists Certification
(1975-2017)*

I am painfully honored to write Pablo José Nuova’s obituary.

Pablo was born in Tucumán on March 8th 1975; his father was an anesthesiologist and his mother is an accountant; these couple had Pablo and his three siblings: Pedro, who is an ophthalmologist, and her two sisters, Florencia and Ana Silvia, who are accountants.

His childhood and adolescence were happy. Pablo used to tell how much fun he usually had with his friends in the Tucumán geography and how much he loved his family.

He studied Medicine at the Tucumán University and, once his medical training ended, he decided to look for an Orthopedics specialization in Buenos Aires City, where he started a Residency at the General Acute Hospital “Juan A. Fernández”.

When he started his Residency in Orthopedics at the Fernández Hospital’s Orthopedics Department, in 2000, there was just one resident per year. Today, there are five residents per year—at that time work was hard and long-lasting.

His fellow residents remember him as a cheerful man, he used to speak with a smile on his face, but he was determined at the time of making his decisions and considered medical tasks and respect towards his patients as the axis of his medical practice.

As an Orthopedic surgeon, he had a holistic sense for his patients’ evaluation and diagnosis, and he mastered the surgical technique.

When he ended his Residency, in 2004, he was Chief of Residents and, there, he learned how to manage with people of very different background. His administration was characterized by its organization; what he wanted was to encourage his inferior residents for them to devote themselves to the study of the specialization and the systematic acquisition of surgical proficiency, something that characterizes the Fernández Hospital’s Orthopedics Department.

Then he completed one year as Instructor of Residents. He undertook this special kind of training emphasizing the residents’ surgical proficiency and teaching them to have an open and especially creative mind, to learn how to value themselves, but always in the context of their strengths and weaknesses. When he ended this period as Instructor of Residents, he applied for two Fellowships in Milan, Italy; one in Hip and Knee and the other one in Hemophilia. Back in Argentina, he joined the Hip Team at the Fernández Hospital’s Orthopedics Department.

He achieved his academic goals step by step. In 2004, upon ending his Residency, he sat for the AAOT specialization exam and, then, he sat for another one to become a UBA's University Specialist. In 2007 he became an AAOT Titular Member and, one year later, he made the decision of coming back to Tucumán after 8 years of training in the specialization. In 2009, he became an ACARO Titular Member and, in 2010, an ACARO accredited member.

In Tucumán, he would work at the public "Ángel C. Padilla" University Hospital and, as of late, he worked as Deputy Chief of such hospital Surgical Center. With respect to private practice, he was a member of the Orthopedics Department of the Sanatorio Modelo of Tucumán, and also a member of the board at that institution.

Moreover, he participated in the AAOT as a member of the Committee on Residencies and Specialists Certification.

The motivation for him to come back to Tucumán was his need to be near all his family, which nowadays is made up of his wife and partner, María del Huerto Márquez, and his two daughters, Lourdes and Sofía. Lately he used to say: "...I wake up early in the morning to ride my bike, then I go to the hospital, I come back for lunch with my wife and my daughters every day. I have some spare time for a nap and I go to the clinic. At night some week-days I have dinner with friends..."

He was also an Atlético de Tucumán soccer team's fan, and while staying in his native city he was able to go to see his team playing whenever there was a match. As of late he was very happy because of his team's promotion to the first league, and for its participation in the South American Cup. He was one of the few fans that accompanied his team to Guayaquil to see him competing in such tournament.

Remembering anecdotes, one of his fellow residents Pablo did not use to get along with told me that one day, this new Chief of Residents was blinded by rage because the residents had not undertaken their tasks as they were supposed to, so, they were rebuked. Afterwards, Pablo asked him to have a word on their own and told him, "Can you now understand me how much are we supposed to fight in order to achieve our goals?!" This is the way that young Chief of Residents puts it, and from then on their personal relationship made a change for the better and they ended up as great friends.

An AAOT employee also tells us that at one time she was facing a critical situation, and he noticed how she was, and he never asked. She considered this silence as a token of respect towards her, but every time he met her, he would look into her eyes and say: "Easy, everything goes away, I promise that everything goes away". She also says he was empathic, he knew how to be in someone else's shoes, quite sound, and he never abused someone else's weakness...On the contrary, he would just help find the way out when someone was facing a critical situation.

His workmates in Tucumán city refer to him in two senses, one way as a friend and the other one as a worker. They say that as a friend he was a wholehearted one, always sensitive to his friends' needs and difficulties. They allocate him three adjectives: affectionate, helpful, and generous. At work, they describe Pablo's attitude as one of someone who shared all his knowledge, always ready to help should difficulties arise, handing out his knowledge and expertise. Finally, they end up stating: "at the end of the day, he lived his life and all us that shared his young life have been touched by him and by some others even better than him".

Dear Pablo, today you are not physically here, but you will remain forever in the case of the loved ones by us all who appreciate you and respect you. The hardest part is María del Huerto, Lourdes and Sofía's—they will have to learn how to get along with your absence. But Virgin Mary's strength will help María del Huerto and your daughters, allowing them to find peace. As stated by the Book of Wisdom: "But the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them" (Wisdom 3, 1a).

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