

## In Memoriam: Miguel Mateu Navarro

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Dr. Miguel Mateu Navarro passed away last October in Barcelona. He died unexpectedly while carrying out his daily tasks as a thoracic surgeon at Hospital Mútua de Terrasa. His premature disappearance deeply affected everyone who had worked with him. We shared with him the best years of his career and the impact he has had on us will not easily be erased by future experiences.

Miguel graduated from the University of Barcelona in 1976. He served for 3 years as an intern under Professor P. Piulachs in the department of surgery and pathology. In 1982 he completed his residency at Hospital Clínic in Barcelona, where he specialized in general and thoracic surgery. From 1978 through 1982 he taught in the Department of Anatomy at the School of Medicine of the same university and in 1990 he was awarded a Doctorate in Medicine. Nine years later he became a Fellow of the European Board of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

His academic background enabled him to do excellent work in all the posts he occupied. The culmination of his career came in 1994 when he was appointed Head of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at Hospital Mútua de Terrassa in 1994. His constant desire to improve in his profession led him to establish contacts in various countries with hospitals, such as Southampton General Hospital (UK), and he belonged to a large number of Spanish and European societies in the field of thoracic surgery.

Miguel carried out many scientific studies and published papers and chapters of books, mostly related to bronchogenic carcinoma, which he studied in depth and to which he dedicated most of his research and clinical practice.

At the time of his death he was President of the Thoracic Surgery Advisory Committee to the Spanish

Society of Pulmonology and Thoracic Surgery (SEPAR), performing his duties with much enthusiasm and interest and making a great effort to represent Spanish thoracic surgeons in the best possible way.

Miguel leaves behind him a great professional legacy, but he always put his family first and definitely valued their well-being more than the attainment of any professional goal. He had a friendly disposition and maintained excellent relations with his closest colleagues. During the last years of his life he worked side by side with his close friend Dr. Ramón Rami Porta. We all appreciated the exceptional professional understanding that developed between them as a result of their tolerance and generosity. Miguel never turned anyone away with empty hands. Faced with a problem he always found a simple and practical solution that had not occurred to the rest of us. Today, people like Miguel are very hard to find. He took joy in everyday events in a very difficult profession.

He clearly enjoyed the unfailing support of the "women in his life:" María Dolores, his wife, and Cristina, Carlota, and Berta, his daughters. At this difficult time they will remember Miguel as he was, a good, thoughtful husband and father who took care of them and tried always to please them, taking their tastes and suggestions into account. They shared many plans for the future. No doubt they will follow the example Miguel gave them with his attitude to life.

Life goes on, but the memory of honorable men will always remain with us and Miguel's example at home and at work must leave its mark on our lives in some way. He would certainly have wished it to be so. Rest in peace.

**José Luis Bravo**

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