



Mr. Ricardo Cordon MD

September 3, 1941 - August 14, 2011

Ricardo Cordon, MD also known as Chaca, Papa, Tío, el Pelón, el Jefe, and To, 69 years young, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on August 14, 2011 at Berkshire Medical Center after a heroic battle with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.

Ricardo was born on September 3, 1941 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. He was the youngest and much loved son of Luis and Amalia Cordon. Ricardo grew up in Guatemala City and throughout his life kept in close, if not daily, contact with his siblings Luis, Blanca, Oscar, and Carmen. They shared a special bond that spanned time and distance.

Ricardo married his wife, Magdalena (Maggie) De Leon Regil in 1966 and together they moved to the United States so he could pursue his career in medicine. In 1976 they moved to Pittsfield, MA where he watched his children, Rick and Ana, and nephew Jose grow up. While his work as a Pulmonologist at BMC kept him very busy, he was a steady and supportive presence at the multitude of ski races, tennis matches, soccer games and school activities they participated in.

He was educated at the Universidad de San Carlos in Guatemala, Duke University School of Medicine, the University of Maryland at Baltimore Medical Center and The University of Missouri at Columbia Medical Center. As the first

pulmonologist and board certified intensivist to practice at BMC, Ricardo not only loved his job but he also loved the doctors, nurses, staff and patients with whom he worked. Everyone he worked with became an extension of his family, and he of theirs.

Ricardo was an avid baseball fan and loved the New York Yankees. His devotion to the Yankees remained intact despite having lived in Red Sox country for over 30 years. He loved to travel and especially enjoyed sharing a good meal and a glass of wine with family and friends. Above all else, Ricardo loved his family. Nothing gave him greater pleasure than time spent with his wife, children, siblings, grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Ricardo is survived by his wife, Maggie, his son, Rick and his wife, Kathy, of Arlington, VA, and his daughter Ana and her husband Tim Suffish of Pittsfield, MA, his grandchildren Gabriela and Zachary Suffish and Sophia and William Cordon. He is also survived by his nephew, Jose Cordon, who was like a son to him, and his children, Santino and Maddox. In addition, he is survived by his siblings and their spouses; Vilma Cordon, Blanca and Angel Garcia, Oscar and Miriam Cordon and Carmen Morales. He also leaves behind several much loved nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. He will be in our hearts forever.

Funeral services for Mr. Ricardo A. Cordon, MD will be Friday, August 19, 2011 at 11 am in Sacred Heart Church, celebrated by Rev. Jonathan Reardon. Burial will be private at a later date. Calling hours at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield will be Thursday, August 18, 2011 from 4 – 7 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Berkshire Medical Center, Care of the Dwyer Funeral Home and will be donated to the Critical Care Unit in which Mr. Cordon was instrumental in establishing.

Tribute Wall

SC

“ *Sophia Cordon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ricardo Cordon MD*



Sophia Cordon - February 03, 2021 at 11:31 AM

SD

“ *He was my grandfather and I miss him very much.*



Sophia Cordon d - February 03, 2021 at 11:31 AM

DD

“ *Its not possible for me to list all the lessons I learned from Ricardo but here are a few. I learned how one develops clinical intuition. Be smart, pay attention and use your experience. His clinical intuition was uncanny and continued to grow until the day he retired. I learned the importance of being honest with others but most importantly the need to be honest with yourself. I learned how important teamwork is to the success of a unit and how building teamwork starts by treating everyone and I mean everyone with affection and respect. I learned that its important to go work but even more important to go home to your family. Finally, watching him during his illness taught me a lot about courage. Every day I use the lessons I learned from el Jefe.*

I used to wonder if I should ask him if there was anything he would want me to say on his behalf after he was gone. I decided I really didn't need to ask the question as I had a pretty good idea what he would say. I think he'd have said, "Tell them thank you for being so good to me." Of course in reply all we want to say is, "No Chaca, thank you for being so good to us and so good for us."

Dan Doyle - August 23, 2011 at 07:21 PM

CW

“ Dear Maggie, Ricky, and Ana:

We're sorry we couldn't go to the funeral home yesterday, but we were gone all afternoon taking our daughter Hannah to the airport; also, I regret I didn't get a chance to speak to you earlier today at the funeral. I'm one of the few doctors still practicing who has been around here long enough to have seen pulmonary and critical care before Ricardo got here. So I can tell you what you already know - that Ricardo truly changed the way pulmonary and critical care are provided in the Berkshires - and for the better. These units at BMC are and will always be a tribute to the dedication and skill that Ricardo brought to bear. Just as importantly, his warm personality and (often self effacing) humor were important in bringing in all the other doctors and healthcare workers to work effectively in these units. Every person who provides or receives care in the RCU and ICU owes a debt of thanks to Ricardo, and for this he will be remembered forever. For me, even though I had just finished my residency when he got here, he has always been an influential mentor. I learned not only from his knowledge, but also from his humanism and compassion. I know that generations of medical students and residents who have passed through BMC while Ricardo was there feel the same way. That he could dispense his great wisdom while holding a popsicle in his mouth is even more amazing! Please accept our heart felt condolences.

Warmly,

Charles Wohl & Alba Passerini

Charles I. Wohl - August 19, 2011 at 05:19 PM

RD

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



r dwyer - August 18, 2011 at 04:27 PM

BT

“ *To the Family of Dr. Cordon:*

I was a patient of Dr. Cordon. He was a compassionate, knowledgeable man who listened to his patients with an open mind.

You have my deepest sympathy.

Barbara Tully

Barbara J. Tully - August 17, 2011 at 04:35 PM