



## Mr. Rodrigo Santamarina MD

May 16, 1969 - October 23, 2017

Rodrigo Santamarina, MD, 1969-2017 Pittsfield, 48 years young, passed away peacefully and surrounded by infinite love on October 23rd, 2017 at Berkshire Medical Center after a most heroic and courageous battle with Cholangiocarcinoma.

Rodrigo, the youngest son of Fernando Santamarina and Yolanda Novella, was born and raised in Guatemala City, Guatemala along with his siblings Virginia and Juan Fernando.

He graduated from UFM Medical School in Guatemala City in 1995 and completed a Residency in General Surgery at San Juan de Dios Hospital. In 1998 he moved to Baltimore, MD determined to pursue his goal of becoming a Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon. In 1999 the Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) opened its doors to him and welcomed him with the opportunity to train for a second time in General Surgery.

In 2000 he married his wife Regina María Echeverría. Their two kids, Daniella (15) and Gabriel (13) were born in Pittsfield during this second residency at BMC.

Once he finished this training in General Surgery, he moved to Worcester to complete two fellowships at UMASS: Hand Surgery and Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He came back to the Berkshires in 2008, this time to work as an attending physician at BMC. In October 2015 he opened his private practice, Santamarina Aesthetic and Plastic Surgery.

In 2012 he unveiled a hidden talent as an artist; with gifted hands and a mind

that had a unique concept of harmony and beauty, he started to paint and let his creativity reach a new level.

His demeanor earned him countless friends along his life, but his family was his most precious treasure. He was a loving father, as proud as he could possibly be of his two kids and their accomplishments.

His wife and best friend stood by him supporting and loving him along every step of his way.

#### FUNERAL NOTICE

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Thursday at 1:00 P.M. at St. Joseph Church by Rev. Msgr. Michael Shershanovich, Pastor. Calling hours will precede the service beginning at 10:00 A.M. at the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield, MA 01201. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory are appreciated and can be made to the Daniella and Gabriel Santamarina Education Fund in care of the funeral home. DONATIONS CANNOT BE MADE ONLINE, BUT MAY BE MADE THROUGH THE FUNERAL HOME.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **26**. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home  
776 North Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 442-5094  
info@dwyerfuneral.com  
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

## Service

OCT **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Joseph Church  
414 North St.  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Tribute Wall

KK

“ *My sincere sympathy and thoughts to Dr. Santamarina's family. I was a patient of his and was so impressed by his knowledge of the latest techniques in laser skin care. What an example he was to other young doctors in that he studied so much and was able to help so many patients. He had a great gift and will be missed greatly. Many blessing upon your family.*

*Karen Ketcham*

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**Karen Ketcham** - November 09, 2017 at 09:06 AM

CR

“ *My deepest condolences to Dr. Santamarina's family. I was a patient for many years and found him both compassionate and caring .When our son passed away during my visits, his genuine concern was something that I will forever remember. He will be remembered as a talented physician and a gentleman that will be missed by all. God bless you Rodrigo.*



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**Christine Richards** - October 30, 2017 at 02:42 PM

RS

*Thank you very much Mrs. Richards*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:56 PM

GA

“ *Rodrigo's spirit,*

*I recently read this in a book by John O'Donohue. It is about an old person dying, so different from what we are experiencing right now. At times like this however, we need to somehow seek peace in a manner of faith that I know that you have to be the kind of loving, compassionate person that you are. This type of faith in a higher purpose that we cannot comprehend has helped me especially when someone like you is taken from us way too soon.*

*"Whether it was out in the mountains or among the fields around the house, his eyes had glimpsed a door opening towards him. His countenance had become more luminous and his natural gentleness was being claimed by a new silence....for a moment in that gaze I knew death had picked his name out....the door of death had closed behind him. The gaze had revealed everything; time had stood still. The image of that gaze has always remained with me for it was a moment of the deepest and most tender knowing, a moment radiant with the strange beauty of sadness."*

*My prayers and thoughts are with your family Rodrigo.*

*With love,  
Gar*

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**Gary** - October 27, 2017 at 04:29 PM

RS

*Thank you very much*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:55 PM

TM

“ RIP DR A GREAT GUY from Terri Massacani



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**Theresa Massacani** - October 27, 2017 at 09:28 AM

RS

*Thank you very much.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:55 PM

DK

“ I was a patient of Dr. Santamarina's between 2010-2015 - starting with a double mastectomy surgery/reconstruction through several years of complications due to infection. What I remember most is when he told me to focus first and foremost on treating the cancer...and that cosmetics were secondary at best...this from a plastic surgeon! This was my first experience realizing what a caring, compassionate person and doctor he was. When I went through 2 years of complications due to infections - he gave me his cell phone number - to call him any time I thought an infection was coming on, so that he could prescribe antibiotics right away. He pulled over on the Mass Pike on his way to a conference to take my call. I endured several surgeries with Dr. Santamrina and never felt anything less than 100% confident that he was doing absolutely everything he could for me. He was a significant influence during a very emotional, vulnerable time in my life. I am deeply saddened that he was stricken with this horrible disease called cancer, and that we was taken away from this life on Earth much too early. He had so many years ahead of him to help hundreds of other patients and to give back to his community. Most of all....he should have had many, many years to enjoy his family - a beautiful wife, lovely children, siblings and more. My deepest sympathies go out to all his family, friends and colleagues. Dr. Santamarina was a remarkable man who will be greatly missed.

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Deb K. - October 26, 2017 at 09:56 PM

RS

Thank you very, very much!

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Regina Santamarina - November 03, 2017 at 09:54 PM

SM

“ *Dr. Santamarina was a talented man not only as a doctor but his art work which is at the hospital BMC I hope they always display it....he will be sadly missed for he helped me get through some things on my skin. I will miss him & trusted his judgement. I'm so sorry for your loss. Sue*

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**Sue MacLeod** - October 26, 2017 at 05:51 PM

RS

*Thank you very much.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:51 PM

OM

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Oscar Ramirez MD** - October 26, 2017 at 03:04 PM

MC

“ Dear Regina,  
I am so sorry for your loss! Rodrigo was such a nice man and a caring husband. He was a good doctor to work for- patient with me in my beginning years as a coder learning the complexities of hand surgeries.  
I am so glad that I bought his painting of sunflowers on blue and I have the painting of flowers in a vase that he gave me for Christmas. These are treasures that will always remind me of him. And you are such a good woman. I will never forget how kind you were to me when my daughter was so sick. I am here for you if you need a shoulder to cry on. May God give you continued strength! I will never forget the two of you.  
Sadly,  
Mary Camyre

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**Mary Camyre** - October 26, 2017 at 12:40 PM

RS

*Thank you very much Mary  
Regina*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:40 PM

JU

“ Dr. Santamarina was always very professional and a pleasure to work with at BMC. My heart goes out to his wife and family at this very difficult time. A great man gone too soon.

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**Judy** - October 26, 2017 at 11:56 AM

RS

*Thank you very much.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:41 PM

OM

“ Dear Regina, Daniella and Gabriel:  
I am very sorry the passing of Rodrigo. Lets not mourn his death. Lets celebrate his life. The life of a young surgeon that when I met him was full of raw talent. A raw stone that became a pearl. A pearl of a surgeon! A much talented Plastic Surgeon that as his mentor I was most proud about. More than that his humility, his kindness and dedication to everybody that he touched was inspiring and uplifting. Rodrigo will live in our memories.  
Oscar Ramirez

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**Oscar M Ramirez MD** - October 26, 2017 at 11:50 AM

RS

Thank you very much Dr Ramirez. This means so much to me, as I know how much Rodrigo admired and respected you and was eternally grateful for the opportunity you gave him.

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:44 PM

JK

“ Dear Regina and family,  
I had the pleasure of working with Rodrigo for many years, when he was a resident and an attending. I enjoyed working with him immensely, and respected his talents and abilities. He will certainly be missed. My sincere condolences to you and your family for your loss.  
Sincerely,  
John Kearns

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**John Kearns** - October 26, 2017 at 11:42 AM

RS

Thank you Dr Kearns

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:45 PM

OM

“ Regina and family,  
My most sincere condolences. Rodrigo will be missed; I will always remember him as the best plastic surgery fellow I have trained, not only for his great surgical skills but as the great caring individual he always was.

- Oscar Ramirez MD  
Ribbon

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**Oscar Ramirez MD** - October 26, 2017 at 09:31 AM

CC

“ A person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, Rodrigo will still be alive in our hearts, through us, he will live on. Deeply sadden by the loss, he will be truly missed. My condolences !

- Corina Cortes, Gabi & Jorge Raul Molina

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**Corina Cortes** - October 26, 2017 at 09:21 AM

RS

*Heartfelt thanks! for all your love and support*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:46 PM

KM

“ My sincere condolences to his family and friends.

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**Karl Myers** - October 25, 2017 at 11:41 AM

RS

*Thank you very much.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:46 PM

CC

“ Dear Regina, Daniella and Gabriel -  
The New England Society and I are so very sad at the news of Rodrigo's passing. He was smart and cheery and humble and kind. We are so sorry to lose a special physician and friend. Please know that you all are in our hearts and prayers. The gifts of his paintings [Mark and I have 3] are our treasures and memories of him forever. God Bless You.  
With Our Deepest Sympathy - Charlotte Constantian and the New England Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

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**Charlotte A Constantian** - October 25, 2017 at 10:33 AM

RS

*Thank you very much for all the love and support.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:47 PM

SA

“ *Con Toda mi alma Lo siento. Regina  
Que Dios me los cuide Mucho.  
Rodrigo: amigo, primo, e inspiracion.  
Que honor haber podido pasar tiempo con el*

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**Sabrina** - October 25, 2017 at 09:32 AM

RS

*Muchas gracias Sabrina, muchas gracias por todo.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:48 PM

JD

“ *Dr. Santamarina removed a cyst from my face about a year ago. His concern and skill were so reassuring. I knew he was ill but not so gravely. To his young wife and children I send my sincerest condolences. Peace be with you.*  
*Jacqueline Demastrie*

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**Jacqueline Demastrie** - October 25, 2017 at 09:28 AM

RS

*Thank you very much.*

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**Regina Santamarina** - November 03, 2017 at 09:48 PM

WF

“ *With my deepest condolences, Moose & family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Mr. Rodrigo Santamarina MD.*



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**With my deepest condolences, Moose & family** - October 25, 2017 at 09:25 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodrigo Santamarina MD.*



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October 25, 2017 at 08:51 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodrigo Santamarina MD.*



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October 25, 2017 at 12:46 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodrigo Santamarina MD.*



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October 25, 2017 at 12:25 AM



“ *All great memories. Great to work with. Will be deeply missed.*

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**Dan Harrington** - October 25, 2017 at 12:04 AM