

# In Memoriam

## Fernando José Carrera Carbó (1944 – 2024)

Fernando Neves\*, João Frazão, João Graça Silva, José Vinhas

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It is with deep sadness that we write these words in memory of Dr. Fernando Carrera.

Fernando passed away suddenly and peacefully at home on September 22, 2024.

Fernando was born in Lisbon on March 3, 1944. Portugal's then complex political-academic situation led to his leaving for Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in 1969. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in 1971, and his degree in Medicine was classified as *Sobresaliente*, or Outstanding.

His career began in Santiago de Compostela, where he was Head of the Nephrology Service at the Hospital of the University of Santiago de Compostela and Professor of the Chair of Pathology and Clinical Medicine at the University of Santiago de Compostela for more than a decade.

Fernando returned to Portugal a few years after the Portuguese Revolution of April 25, 1974. In the early 1980s, he was Clinical Director of the Lumiar National Medical Center's Dialysis Clinic, which was at the time the largest hemodialysis center in the country.

Fernando was also an Attending Nephrologist at Lisbon's Santa Cruz Hospital, where he was pivotal in the implementation of the hospital's transplant program. He was a member of the civilian staff of Lisbon's Military Hospital and an Attending Nephrologist at the Nephrology Service of Porto's Santo António Hospital. Later he became Deputy Director of SAMS Hospital in Lisbon and Director of its Nephrology Department.

Fernando's passion for medicine, medical science, and disseminating knowledge prompted him to take on weighty roles in several scientific societies: President of the Congress of the Spanish Society of Nephrology (1980); President of the Congress of the Spanish Society of Dialysis and Transplantation (1981); Member of the Common Council of the European Renal Association (1994-96); Secretary-Treasurer of the European Renal Association (1996-99) and (1999-2002); Honorary President of the Congress of the Brazilian Society of Nephrology (1996); President of the Ibero-American Congress of Nephrology (1997); Member of the Disciplinary Council of the Portuguese Medical Association (1999-2002) and (2002-2005); President of the International Conference on Geriatric Nephrology and Urology (2001); Member of the Advisory Board of the American Kidney Foundation (2002-2004). Fernando organized and was President of the European Renal Association Congress, which with tireless commitment and dedication he was able to bring to Portugal: it was held in Lisbon in 2004. In 2015 Fernando received the ERA Award for his contributions to the Society.

He was Editor-in-Chief of the *Portuguese Journal of Nephrology and Hypertension* for 25 years (1987-2012). The dedication and passion to our journal during all these years, the way he edited and corrected the articles submitted, the way he motivated us to publish and write with high quality and rigour had a great impact on several generations of Portuguese nephrologists.

Fernando Carrera helped and supported a great number of young Nephrology Residents and Nephrologists in preparing their draft articles and writing them correctly in English.

Fernando Carrera was a prestigious and internationally recognized nephrologist, bringing a high level of quality to all his professional and scientific activity, for which he was greatly in demand. He demonstrated a generous dedication to all the colleagues he believed in. He actively promoted young Portuguese nephrologists' involvement in many congresses and working groups in Europe, Latin

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\* Corresponding Author:

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America, and the United States of America, with their participation including lectures and presentations of original work.

A strong personality with a fierce loyalty to his friends, Fernando was a good, persistent, and solid friend, who had a tenderness that disarmed and a dialectical strength that touched and moved.

The example of his unique life and the dedication and generosity with which he toasted everyone who had the enormous privilege of his friendship will always be remembered.

In retirement, he remained useful, during and after the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, reviewing countless articles on the topic, and beyond, which he distributed to a circle of

fortunate colleagues, who will never be able to thank him enough for his work. Fernando did this solely for the personal satisfaction of disseminating knowledge that would add to people's understanding.

A generous, cultured, and intelligent man died. The funeral ceremony was more marked by absences than presences, but without a doubt many of us will always feel grateful and indebted for his availability, dedication, and support. Personally, we were privileged to have his unfailing friendship and frequent company.

To his wife, Mari Carmen, and their adult children, Carmen and Fernando, the guarantee of our lasting and rich memories.

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