

Santiago Fazzini, MD

(1939-2018)



It is already a number of years ago that Santiago Fazzini came to our Hospital right from the Rehabilitation National Center, with a magnificent history at the Finocchiettos' academy in operation at the old Rawson Hospital and, of note, having worked together with another one among the greatest ones—Eduardo Zancolli.

“I have come here to work with you—I am all yours”, he said, with the humility and modesty he has always been characterized by, which is certainly a landmark in the greatest ones. It was then that I really got to know him, in his words: “...I am all yours” meant what he really was like throughout his life: Simple, straightforward, humble, kind, and respectful towards patients and colleagues.

Here, in this place, he started working for the Upper Limb Team under the direction of another one among the greatest ones: Enrique Pener, widely acknowledged by his dedication to microsurgery.

Here Santiago Fazzini was progressively showing who he really was: a remarkable specialist, a great teacher, an extremely skillful surgeon and, on top of everything, someone very tactful at the time of interacting with his patients and his colleagues. That is why he was none less than exemplary throughout his long, productive career.

Santiago Fazzini was characterized by a formidable personality, and I used to see him, day by day, at the operating theatre, at the office, at the ward, and in a place I have fond memories of—our Ground-Rounds, where in view of a question somebody may have posed, he would ask for some chalk or a marker and he would cast a spell over us all with his diagrams and drawings of such and such surgical technique, anatomy, operating variables, surgical approaches, etc. etc

I remember him with some color chalk in his hand while drawing the brachial plexus, or the pathway of the radial nerve, or a new approach, or the anatomic variant of whichever vessel or nerve... Advising us this way and, at the time of reading such and such article (sometimes a very out-dated work and sometimes up-dated articles), he would look for us all to learn from them.

Santiago Fazzini leaves a large empty space which is extraordinarily difficult to fill: we, his direct disciples, here and now, are the natural inheritors of the exemplary education he would provide us with... This is going to last with the unmistakable Santiago Fazzini's hallmark, and who he was: a master, a friend, a genius, quite a character...

*Santiago Fazzini: genio y figura
Afable, sencillo, sincero, probo,
Noble, afectuoso a carta cabal
Amigo y maestro. ¡Qué más! Así alguien sin igual.*

*Santiago Fazzini: genio y figura
Fuiste uno de los grandes docentes
Que conocí y seguí a lo largo de tu largo camino
Que fue difícil, duro, empinado pero meritorio así -así -ese fue tu destino*

*Santiago Fazzini: hoy ya son todos recuerdos
Tus opiniones, tus dibujos, tus consejos
Sellaron una etapa de nuestra existencia
Te veo igual ahora allá arriba maravillándonos con tu única e inigualable sapiencia*

*Santiago Fazzini: genio y figura
Tu imagen se agiganta a través del tiempo
Tus discípulos seguirán tu huella marcando el camino
Tuviste una vida de esfuerzos y trabajo, así -así -este fue tu destino Santiago Fazzini
Descansa en Paz*

Ricardo Tito Amor