

In Memorium

MARIA DA GRAÇA CORREIA (1952-2020)

José Venâncio, Francisco Abecasis



On the 9th of October, our colleague Maria da Graça left us.

Associate no. 449 of the Portuguese Society of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine (SPRMN), she was a radiologist of unquestionable merit, who saw her professional quality recognized in her hospital medical career, which began in 1981 at Hospital de Santa Marta, part of the Grupo Hospitais Civis de Lisboa at the time, and where she would become Head of the Radiology Department in 1998.

Throughout her life she published multiple scientific papers, one of which was granted the Sanitas award, and cooperated in hospital radiological activities, as well as in others carried out by other entities.

She was the first Portuguese radiologist to obtain the European ultrasound certificate in Madrid in 1986.

She devoted particular interest to the training of young interns in Radiology, and/or to further training in ultrasound to already specialists, an activity in which, as she said, she assumed her “educational and maternal” side.

In the private radiologies activities, she was Director of the Radiology Service at TAP since September 1990, and at Hospital dos Lusíadas since 2008.

She has always been a disinterested collaborator in the activities developed by S.P.R.M.N., having occupied a place in the Board, as Member of the Fiscal Council from 2003 to 2010, and in 2010/2012 as 2nd Secretary of the General Assembly.

She was thus naturally awarded the title of S.P.R.M.N. Honorary Member in 2015.

Her activity as radiologist was accompanied by a personal relationship filled with a permanent affability, friendliness and good mood.

It was always difficult, we would say almost impossible, to be near Graça without feeling contaminated by her joy and pleasure in life.

Because we accompanied her on numerous trips in the country and abroad on the occasion of national and international scientific meetings, we bear witness to this publicly.

The human warmth that she transmitted in her affection was the tonic to resist the cold winter in Chicago during the RSNA Meetings.

For us it was extremely painful to watch the progressive and rapid degradation of her health in the last years of her life.

For someone who always insisted on having a surplus of energy for an active life and total self-sufficiency, the fact that the disease made her totally dependent on others, in particular on her closest family, led to a progressive loss of her joy and a sadness that she tried hard to disguise.

If anyone did not deserve this, it was Graça.

The deep friendship that has always united us to her, made us feel sorry for her departure, but also the end of a huge and unjust suffering.

We can but be sure that missing her is also feeling her presence and that Graça’s joy and her eternal and contagious smile will not be erased from our memory.