

## João Manuel Barbosa Silva Nunes (1941-2010)

Luis Dutschmann

I first met João in the first year of University. Over time, he proved to be one of the best students on the course. Serious and knowledgeable, he always took part in the extracurricular activities of the Course, in the recital and in the graduates' trip. He spoke little during the visits, as he wasn't an extrovert, unlike some other colleagues, equally good students, who loudly proclaimed their knowledge. But when questioned, he replied with a profound knowledge that demonstrated a deep learning, and not something that had been hastily picked up. He was part of a small group that started in the first year and stayed together until the internship (seventh year). We did the internship and completed our theses in the same Service, at that time the Clinical Medicine Service, and we also started the General Internship together, where we had previously worked as volunteers until the start of the General Internship. Our training was cut short by military service. We went our separate ways; João to the Naval Reserve and I to the Practical Infantry School. One went to the Guinea, the other to Mozambique. We returned to resume our functions at the same Service, and worked in parallel activities and further strengthening our relationship. We were both pioneers of the first Intensive Care Unit in the country, the UTIC. In this period, our friendship was cemented still further, and our careers continue along parallel paths: voluntary assistants and the Lisbon School of Medicine, chair of Clinical



Medicine, Specialists in Medicine, Assistants of the Hospital Staff. We took the Specialization in Cardiology exam, at the old building of the Ordem dos Médicos (Medical Association) in Avenida da Liberdade, on the same day and before the same examining committee.

In 1978 we separated, when João was invited to work with Professor Sales Luís as Medical Assistant I at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Lisbon, first at the Hospital de Egas Moniz and later at the Hospital S. Francisco Xavier. After taking the Public Recruitment Examination, he was subsequently nominated Graduate Assistant (1988), Head of Service (1992) and Director of Service in 1999, a position which he exercised until his retirement in 2003. After retirement, he remained active as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Universidade Atlântica.

In the latter phase, we kept in contact, our paths often crossing in public recruitment competitions for Head of Service, in which he was a voting member in the competition for Head of Service of the Hospital Fernando Fonseca, and I the President, while he was President for the competition for Head of Service of the Hospital S. Francisco Xavier, and I a voting member.

A chronic, acute disease recently robbed us, the profession of Internal Medicine, and his Family, of the exemplary Doctor, João Silva Nunes. His demise will be a great loss to Portuguese Internal Medicine, and one that will be difficult to replace. ■