

## X Message from the President of the Cuban Society of Cardiology: Dr. Alfredo Dueñas Herrera, in memoriam

### *X Mensaje del Presidente de la Sociedad Cubana de Cardiología: En recordación al Dr. Alfredo Dueñas Herrera*

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#### ARTICLE INFORMATION

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Today, March 31, 2020, the very same day when he would have reached retirement, he has left this earthly life; our dear partner, friend, colleague, and struggles' brother: doctor Alfredo Dueñas Herrera. We could not give him the deserved job farewell that we all, his coworkers, had prepared for him, precisely because of the emergence of the disease that finally ended his life. The speech that I should have given that day to honor him remained pending forever. I think now that, on behalf of the Cuban Society of Cardiology and his colleagues from the *Instituto de Cardiología y Cirugía Cardiovascular (ICCCV)*, where he displayed his unceasing scientific work throughout most of his career, I must share –in his memory– a version of those words that we never had the chance to tell him in person and that we hope to make public now.

Alfredo, like we, his friends, used to simply call

him, due to those life coincidences, did not make it to retirement, but if he would, he would have never stop taking care of his scientific and social commitments. We, the ones who had the chance to know him, can assure that retiring was not a part of his way of thinking or life story. Due to his many years of work and health condition it was time for him to start a new stage in his life, that would have begun from today on with his very well earned retirement.

Doctor Dueñas, during more than five decades of medical, scientific, administrative and political work, most of them at the ICCCV, knew how to win the admiration and respect of all his coworkers, colleagues and patients due to the seriousness, enthusiasm and honesty with which he carried out all the responsibilities he was given throughout his fruitful life. From his beginnings, as a newly graduated doctor during the Rural Medical Service, he proved his skills as good professional and manager, since he held important administrative positions in the Public Health sector, in the North-East former administrative region. Later, in the ICCCV, he passed through the categories of intern, cardiology specialist, Medical Assistance Vicedirector, chief of the Preventive

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Cardiology Department –throughout its validity–, and he also obtained the very well-earned academic and researching categories of Consultant Professor and Assistant Researcher. He took part as well, as principal investigator, in several research projects and was the author of many national and international medical publications. Due to his wide and diverse professional work he is considered, without a doubt, a pioneer of the Prevention and Epidemiology of heart diseases in Cuba, work that awarded him recognition within and outside our borders. We also know that the most eminent specialists devoted to this field in the United States of America, United Kingdom, Spain, Russia and other countries from the former socialist block, Europe and Latin America, know and recognize his scientific work, which, without doubt, has brought a lot of prestige, to himself, to our Institute, to our National Health Care System and to our country.

We must not overlook his activism in the Cuban Communist Party since he was very young and during many years, his excellent and very updated political preparation that, he shared with his colleagues from his working area and Cuban Communist Party section, in which he was active during many years. We cannot forget either his willingness to cooperate with other brotherly peoples when they were in need during the honorable fulfillment of internationalist missions: like in Peru, when they were affected by the unfortunate earthquake in 1970, and in Angola, during their liberation war also in the 70's decade.

It was very significant his nomination as Distinguished Cardiologist from Central America and the Caribbean proposed by the Cuban Society of Cardiology, conferred by the Central American and the Caribbean Society of Cardiology, during its corresponding Congress in Panama in 2012 (**Figure**), among many other honors and decorations received throughout his fruitful career.

It is not about making now an overview of his life or his *curriculum vitae*, since it would be an infinite work, but to simply highlight some relevant facts related to our dear friend, colleague and brother, Alfredo Dueñas, that come to my mind in this sad moment, in this morning of our hot spring in which we lost him physically.

The way he treated his patients, his professional work among us, his teachings and ultimately, his example, will remain forever present in our daily activ-



**Figure.** Photographic composition of the presentation, by the author, of the commemorative plaque as “Distinguished Cardiologist” from Central America and the Caribbean, to doctor Alfredo Dueñas Herrera (Panama City, June 6-9, 2012).

ities and will encourage us to fulfill, each day in the best possible way, our main commitment, that is to serve with modesty and efficiency our peoples' health, which is, as Alfredo used to remind us over and over, one of the most important premises of our Revolution.

For the work of your entire life you have earned the right to rest in peace dear friend!

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Havana, March 31, 2020  
“Year 62 of the Revolution”.

