

# **Juan Lechago, M.D., Ph.D.**

**1942-2006**



**Our friend, colleague and teacher, Juan Lechago, died on Friday, September 29, 2006.**

**Juan was an internationally renowned pathologist who educated and inspired pathologists and other physicians for more than thirty years. He was widely respected for his expertise in gastrointestinal pathology and was acknowledged as one of the world's authorities on neuroendocrine tumors.**

**Juan was born in Barcelona, Spain. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees in Cordoba, Argentina and his M. Sc. (Pathology) and Ph.D. from Queen's University, in Ontario, Canada. He completed his residency in Pathology at Kingston General Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston and then joined the faculty at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in 1973 where he remained for 14 years, rising to the rank of Professor at the UCLA School of Medicine. He moved to University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas, in 1987 to be Professor and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Pathology and Chief of the Laboratory Service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, as well as Director of the Morphology Core of the Center for Diabetes Research. In 1990 he moved to Baylor College of Medicine in Houston as Professor of Pathology and Professor of Medicine (Gastroenterology) and Director of the Surgical Pathology Service at the Methodist Hospital.**

**In 2002 we recruited him to be head of the gastrointestinal pathology and endocrine services in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center where he earned the greatest respect, admiration and affection from his colleagues, resident and fellows and support staff in Pathology as well as from clinicians**

**Dr. Lechago had more than a hundred articles in peer-reviewed journals and 25 book chapters. He edited or co-edited four books, including *Cellular Basis of Chemical Messengers in the Digestive System*, *Endocrine Pathology Update*, and *Bloodworth's Endocrine Pathology*. His newest book, *Intraoperative Pathology* is to be published. He was a gifted, highly articulate and entertaining speaker and was an invited lecturer at medical centers and at scientific symposia throughout the world.**

**His many friends will particularly remember him for his great warmth, the extraordinary depth of his medical knowledge, his support of colleagues and students, and his unswerving devotion to, and love for, the practice of Pathology. He delighted in studying cases, rendering diagnoses and teaching. He was highly cultured and loved music, art, travel, good food and wine and was as informed in these areas as in medicine. He delighted in sharing his knowledge and experiences and was the most genial professional associate and social companion. Juan was without guile or artifice and, despite his extraordinary abilities and accomplishments, was modest and unassuming.**

**His greatest love was for his family. He revered and admired his mother, recounting that much of his abilities and accomplishments came from her guidance and teaching. He found great love with his first wife, Lea with whom he had three children, and after her death with his current wife, Zunilda, who became his mate, his companion, his comfort and his inspiration. He had the greatest pleasure in talking about his children, who he greatly and unconditionally loved. He was proud of the accomplishments of John and James and Sarah, but mostly found joy in their personal qualities. He was especially proud to have contributed to the development of three such fine human beings.**

**The passing away of this legendary pathologist leaves an immeasurable void in our discipline. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.**