

Jacinto Simões, 1925-2010

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Jacinto Simões passed away in Lisbon on the 8th November 2010. He was a brilliant physician and a pioneer of Portuguese Nephrology and one of the last of a golden generation of doctors whose strong leadership and audacious view changed Portuguese medicine.

In parallel to his professional activities, he led a rich social and political life, and was a lifelong socialist and Freemason.

After graduating at the top of his class, Jacinto Simões spent time in Pasadena working in basic

research and later in Paris with Jean Hamburger, where he came into contact with advances in the evolving critical care medicine at that time.

In the early sixties he gave an extraordinary contribution to critical care in Lisbon when he created in Curry Cabral Hospital, with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the intensive care unit. Here hundreds of patients were treated, “defying the conservative position in face of inevitable death from multiorgan failure”. This unit would become a landmark in the treatment of acute renal failure and later in chronic renal disease and the



embryo of the nephrology department of that hospital. In 1969 and 1970 he initiated a revolutionary programme of living donor renal transplantation there.

In 1980 he moved to Santa Cruz Hospital where once again he gave a sterling contribution to Portuguese nephrology, initiating in Portugal a pioneer CAPD programme. He began working in renal transplantation again and with great success in 1985.

Always a nonconformist and an unashamed intellectual, at 67 years old Jacinto Simões presented a doctoral dissertation to the Faculty of Medical Sciences entitled “Multiorgan Failure”, where he

congregated all his experience in this field over two distinct periods of his medical life.

Late in his seventies and after retirement, he published three books of poems, most of them written in the black notebooks he carried around all his life: “Latitudes” (1999), “Relapses” (2001) and “Unexpected Poems” (2003).

Men such as Jacinto Simões will always leave a strong impression on those who have worked and lived close to them. His colleagues and friends will cherish the memory of an outstanding Internist, Nephrologist, Professor, Man of Culture and Poet.