



## Professor Ernesto De Santis

(1943-2003)

We mourn a friend and a highly esteemed clinician, whose loss has caused a deep emotion all over the world. We will miss him, but he will remain in our memories forever as a teacher of orthopaedics and of humanity.

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The passing of Professor Ernesto De Santis on 23 October 2003 in Rome, after a brief illness, was deeply mourned by his colleagues, his disciples, whom he had taught and nurtured, his patients and his family and friends. With his passing, Italy and the international community of orthopaedic surgery lost one of its most gifted and influential members. However, his legacy will live on.

Professor De Santis' remarkable organizational skills, as well as his outstanding contributions as researcher, teacher and orthopaedic surgeon, led to his being chosen, in 1997, as the Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in one of Italy's most prestigious universities, the Università Cattolica of Rome.

Professor De Santis was, above all, a talented educator. He was a clinician who believed strongly that clinical knowledge must be grounded in basic science. He placed tremendous emphasis on the teaching of basic-science subjects as a rationale for diagnosis and treatment. Although he was internationally renowned as a hip surgeon, he also gained wide respect for his work on the histopathological reactions of tissues to orthopaedic implants. His knowledge and expertise, combined with a command of the English language, made him one of the most well known orthopaedic visiting professors in the international community, including here in North America.

Professor De Santis was a warm and generous man. He cherished the simple things in life most. He loved the people and the ancient traditions of his father's hometown, San Martino in Pensilis (Campobasso, Italy). He also enjoyed the outdoors and was particularly fond of scuba diving, fishing, and other water-related sports. Anything new or different was exciting to him. He was always eager to try innovations in patient care and in education.

He was a loyal friend and a devoted husband, father and grandfather who always inspired those who knew him. His colleagues, students and friends will miss his enthusiasm, wit and teachings.

We express our deepest sympathy to his beloved wife, Patrizia, to his two children and to his extended family.

In remembering him we are reminded of the words of C.J. Wells: "That which we love we mourn, but must rejoice that we have ever had."

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