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FOUNDERS

Américo Dinis da Gama, MD, PhD

Américo Dinis da Gama, MD, PhD and Vascular Surgeon, was born in Caála, Angola. He completed his medical degree in 1967 at Universidade de Lisboa and worked closely with Prof. João Cid dos Santos (Figure 1), until he deceased in 1975. After his military service and two campaigns in Mozambique between 1967 and 1971, he initiated his academic career, achieving his PhD in Medicine by Universidade de Lisboa in 1984; in 1993 he reached the Full Professor degree by the same University. From 1974 to 1976 he acquired the title of "Post-Doctoral Fellow in Cardiovascular Surgery" by the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, U.S.A. under the guidance of Prof. M.E. DeBakey (Figure 2). He retired from his academic career in August 2012.

His dedication to the national health service is well documented by a path that led to the degree of Chief of Service of Vascular Surgery in 1988. From 1988 to 1990 he was Head of the Emergency Department at Hospital de Santa Maria and from 1990 to 2012 he was Head of the Department of the Clínica Universitária de Cirurgia Vascular at Hospital de Santa Maria, coordinator of the discipline of Cirurgia I from the Mestrado Integrado em Medicina and regent of Vascular Surgery at Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa. He was also a member of the Comissão Coordenadora do Conselho Científico and President of Assembleia de Representantes from Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa between 1998 e 2004.

He started his clinical practice at Hospital da Luz Lisboa in 2007, assuming coordination of the Vascular Surgery Department in 2012.

In the field of Vascular Surgery, he was a pioneer, particularly dedicated to extra-anatomical revascularization surgery and aortic, thoracic, abdominal and thoracoabdominal aneurysms, cryopreserved arterial allografts, renal, celiac and mesenteric revascularization, aortic dissection, the surgical treatment of Takayasu's aorto-arteritis and inferior vena cava tumors, in addition to all the other chapters that make up contemporary Vascular Surgery. In



1983, he created a "simplified technique" for the surgical treatment of thoracoabdominal aneurysms, which had international impact and is published in the "Encyclopedie Medico-Chirurgicale". He is also the author of several original techniques of reconstructive arterial surgery, published in the national and international medical press. He has six original works published in the Journal of Vascular Surgery (one of the international journals of greatest projection and impact factor in the field of Vascular Surgery), including a cover publication in October 2012 (Figure 3 and 4). In 1994



Figure 1

Cid dos Santos and Américo Dinis da Gama

he created and published an “Operative Curriculum Classification”, which ordered hierarchically a vast number of procedures that are part of the scope of vascular surgery and is still currently used by most Portuguese vascular surgeons.

He was President of the European Society of Cardiovascular Surgery, of the Portuguese Society of Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, of the M.E. DeBakey International Surgical Society and Elected Member of the Board of Directors of the Société de Chirurgie Vasculaire de Langue Française. He was also Vice President of the International Cardiovascular Society, of the College of Vascular Surgery of Habla Hispana and of the Portuguese Society of Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery.

He was a member of the Portuguese Academy of Medicine, holder of Chair nº XXVI. He is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of multiple national and international journals and was Director of the Portuguese Journal of Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery from 2004 to 2016, establishing this journal on the Medline index and Medline. This was a true landmark for national medical publications on the cardiovascular field.

During his professional career, he participated in and was responsible for the education and training of 31 national vascular surgeons and received, in his department, trainees from foreign countries like Spain, Brazil, Holland, Angola and China.

He is the author and co-author of 278 scientific works dedicated to Medicine in general and Vascular Surgery in particular, published in the country or abroad, as well as 28 chapters of textbooks, 9 monographs and 27 films of scientific interest or operative technique.

He was also editor of 9 institutional books, two of

them dedicated to the celebrations of the 40th and 50th anniversaries of Hospital de Santa Maria, in 1994 and 2004, respectively, and the remaining 7 concerning the annual edition of the work entitled “Casos Clínicos do Hospital da Luz”, from 2008 to 2014.

The works published in the national and international medical press are predominantly dedicated to scientific topics, but many are dedicated to historical or socio-professional reflection. In addition, about 15 of those works, aim to contribute to the national and international divulgation of the work of the Portuguese pioneers of angiography and vascular surgery, Egas Moniz, Reynaldo dos Santos and João Cid dos Santos.

Among the innumerable conferences, lectures and presentations that he gave, we should mention, for their importance, the Leriche Memorial Lecture of the European Society of Cardiovascular Surgery in Budapest, Hungary, in September 1990 entitled “The surgical management of aortic dissection, from uniformity to diversity, a continuous challenge”, the Leriche Memorial Lecture of the same Society in Paris, in September 1998, “The fate of arterial transplantation of the death of the microcosm” and the Inaugural Conference of the 105th Japanese Congress of Surgery



Figure 2

M.E. DeBakey and Américo Dinis da Gama

in Nagoya, Japan in May 2005 entitled "Open the doors of modern vascular surgery. The Portuguese Pioneers".

The following national conferences and lectures can be highlighted, among others:

- The crisis of contemporary medicine or the "second death" of Hippocrates, 2000
- The future of Vascular Surgery in a rapidly changing world. Quo Vadis?, 2002
- Life and death of medical careers, 2006
- Medical productivity and biometric attendance control, 2007
- The exercise of surgery is "cosa mentale", 2008
- The maintenance of the social state and the "well-being" society, 2009
- National Health Service, a priceless asset, 2009
- Public hospitals "versus" private, complementary or competing?, 2013
- A reflection on the technological development, research and progress of surgery, 2013

He received an Honorable Mention at the PFIZER awards in 1974 and the National and International "Cid dos Santos" awards in 1984, the SPCTV/Victoria Laboratories award in 1995, the 2nd PFIZER Research Award in 1997 and the Special Award of the World Association of Med-

ical Film, in 1997. The Portuguese Journal of Cardio-Thoracic and Vascular Surgery created, in 2016, the "Professor Américo Dinis da Gama Award", intended to reward the best scientific work published annually in its editions.

He was awarded the Gold Medal for Distinguished Services from the Ministry of Health, the Medal of Honor from the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon, the Silver Medal for Distinguished Services from the Portuguese Armed Forces, the Medal of Merit from the Order of Physicians, with the Gold Medal of the University of Padua, Italy, with the Medal of Merit of the Portuguese Red Cross and with the Medal of Celebration of the 50 years of affiliation to the Medical Association.

As one of his collaborators from 2006 to 2016, I feel honored and fortunate by the opportunity of having learned from one of the greatest figures of Vascular Surgery. His technical skill, accuracy, rigor and dedication to the patients still constitute a benchmark for my clinical practice today.

He was a true influencer in his field, head of a school of Vascular Surgery that was born in the hands and minds of the fathers of our specialty. His legacy will endure time, through the practice of all those that had the chance to cherish his work.



Figure 3

Cover of the Journal Vascular Surgery October 2012

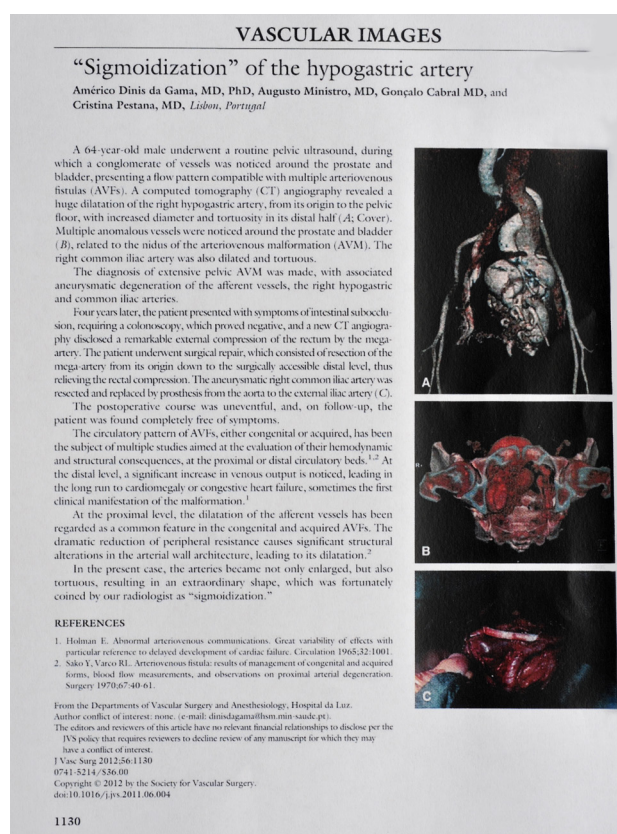


Figure 4

Abstract of cover article on the Journal Vascular Surgery