

IN MEMORIAM

1. MD, Obstetrician-Gynecologist - Former President of SPOG, Former President of the Peruvian Fertility Society, Full Member of the Peruvian Academy of Surgery. Member of the Editorial Committee of the Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Honorary Member of six Latin American Obstetrics and Gynecology Societies. Former Senior Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Federico Villarreal National University. Former Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at María Auxiliadora Hospital. Latin American Master of Gynecology and Obstetrics. Former Executive Director of FLASOG. Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Former Deputy Minister of Health. ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2603-3607>.

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Conflict of interest. The author was a colleague and close friend of Dr. Pacheco. They also participated in various activities together.

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In memory of Dr. José Pacheco Romero En memoria del Dr. José Pacheco Romero

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I am grateful to the Peruvian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology for conferring upon me the great honor of writing this profile, which I am sure will not be easy given the significance of Dr. José Pacheco's life for Peruvian medical science, as he has devoted his entire professional career to the advancement of Peruvian obstetrics and gynecology.

To speak of José Pacheco Romero, known to his friends as Pepe, is to speak of a figure who truly represents an institution, with many facets: ethical, scientific, educational, research, managerial, and humanistic,

in all of which he has left a deep mark that we all have the challenge of maintaining in order to honor his memory.

Our character was a doctor born in the city of Lima, the son of parents from the beautiful city of Huacho. He completed his primary education in Lima and finished secondary school at Colegio Santa María.

After completing his basic education, he entered the Universidad Mayor de San Marcos to study medicine and, after successfully completing his degree, he qualified as a physician-surgeon in 1,962. Undoubtedly inspired by the professional practice of his father, who specialized in obstetrics at the old Maternity Hospital in Lima, he soon in 1,964 he left for the United States, where he pursued postgraduate studies in Rhode Island and Cincinnati, before arriving in Rochester, Minnesota, where he began his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the prestigious Mayo Clinic. During his residency, he did an internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. After successfully completing his specialty studies, which took a total of six years, he earned his master's degree in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Minnesota. Back in Peru, he obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree from the National University of San Marcos.

In 1,963, before traveling to North America, he married Paquita Belevan, with whom he had three children; his first daughter was born in the USA and his next two children (twins) were born in Lima.

From a very young age, at 5 years old, he cultivated music. Guided by his teacher, he soon became a piano virtuoso. Many of us have enjoyed his concerts, which were presented at the Peruvian-North American Cultural Institute, at the Cayetano Heredia University in Miraflores, or at the Museum of the Nation. We fondly remember that at the latter venue, he was invited to conduct the National Symphony Orchestra, which he did with such brilliance that he received a standing ovation from a



large audience, demonstrating their respect and admiration for Pepe's artistry.

Having acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience through guided learning from his teachers, his professional practice, and his early interest in research, he did not hesitate to return to his country, accompanied by his wife and three children, where he arrived in 1,970. Very soon, we had him as a visiting professor at the old San Bartolomé Hospital, when the author of this article was finishing his postgraduate studies. From the beginning, he aroused admiration, sympathy, and respect for his insightful arguments and proposals when clinical cases were routinely discussed with the Obstetrics and Gynecology team.

Shortly thereafter, he joined the staff of the Anglo-American Clinic, then the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Air Force Central Hospital, and later the Edgardo Rebagliati Hospital of EsSalud, having spent many years of his professional career as a physician on the staff of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He quickly earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his dedication to his work, his efficiency in providing specialized care, and his constant interest in research and publications.

He joined the Obstetrics and Gynecology, Fertility, and Endocrinology societies, of which he was president. He was also a member of the Peruvian Academy of Surgery, the Climaterium Society, and the Hypertension Society, and chaired the Peruvian Perinatology Network. He participated very successfully in all of these institutions.

However, in addition to this brief account, José Pacheco's professional life leaves us with a profound legacy and a very high standard that future generations of obstetricians and gynecologists must strive to achieve. Let us consider how much Pepe has left us.

In the field of ethics and bioethics, he leaves us with profound lessons on the conduct that doctors, and especially our specialists, should value and follow not only in the provision of services, but in all fields of medical activity, teaching, administration, research, and all other activities. He has greatly promoted respect for the autonomy and human rights of individuals. It is no

coincidence that he has successfully integrated and chaired the CMP's Ethics Oversight Committee, an institution that has recognized all his contributions and awarded him the Medal of Merit and the Medal of Extraordinary Merit on two separate occasions.

As a scientist, José Pacheco has shone with his own light. He has successfully worked as a staff physician at the Anglo Americana Clinic and the Edgardo Rebagliati Hospital, where he has practiced his profession with deep respect for professional ethics and up-to-date knowledge of his specialty. At this hospital, he received the Gold Medal award for the most distinguished obstetrician-gynecologist in the Rebagliati Healthcare Network. This makes him a role model for the generations that follow in his footsteps at this important institution in Peru's healthcare system.

As a university professor, José Pacheco is a true icon. After arriving in the country from the United States, he soon joined the National University of San Marcos as an undergraduate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and rose through the ranks to become a full professor. As in all his activities, he always performed his duties with strict adherence to ethics, great scientific competence, and a constant concern for his students' learning. He also served successfully as a postgraduate professor in the same specialty, lavishing his skills on his students. His high merits earned him, after his regular retirement, the status of extraordinary expert professor at the UNMSM Faculty of Medicine, a status he maintained until his death. But his love of teaching was not limited to university classrooms; it extended to many of Peru's health regions and Latin American countries, in the form of participation in courses, conferences, congresses, symposiums, seminars, and workshops. All of this earned him the distinction of Latin American Master of Gynecology and Obstetrics from the Latin American Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology Societies.

Research activities began early for José Pacheco, during his time as a resident physician at the Mayo Clinic. Once in Peru, alongside his healthcare activities, he always found reasons to engage in clinical and epidemiological research. This enviable quality allowed him to produce a



large body of work in Peruvian and Latin American scientific literature. We would say that he has been the most prolific author of scientific works to date, with more than 300 publications in Peruvian and foreign journals and books. Reading each of his publications leaves the reader not only with the satisfaction of having consulted a work that complies with the strictest international scientific and ethical standards, but also with the enjoyment of entertaining and beautiful content.

His constant interest in research was not limited to his own work, but he always sought to pass on this quality to his colleagues, especially younger ones, both inside and outside the university classroom, to such an extent that he organized various training courses to broaden the spectrum of researchers in our field.

The strength of the research that Pepe always showed in his professional life led him to publish his Manual of Obstetrics in seven editions, aimed primarily at guiding the conduct of healthcare providers in the field of obstetrics. His monumental work, the textbook on Gynecology and Obstetrics, was first published in 1999, and a second, highly updated edition, entitled Gynecology, Obstetrics, and Human Reproduction, was published in 2007 and served as a reference book for undergraduate and graduate students and specialists. This successful publication earned him the Hipólito Unanue Gold Medal for best scientific publication. Similarly, in 2018, he received the Hipólito Unanue Gold Medal for his brilliant professional career.

In the field of management, José Pacheco performed with great professional and ethical competence in the responsibilities he assumed in both service and teaching activities. He presided over the Peruvian Fertility Society, during which time he successfully organized an International Congress in 1984. He also presided over the Peruvian Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology and successfully presided over the Congress in 1993. He presided over the Peruvian Perinatology Network and, with a team of collaborators, traveled throughout much of rural Peru to conduct training sessions that would change the perspective of care in different regions of the country. He excelled in the management of publications. His

first foray into this field was in 1984, when he spent four years working with the author of this article on the editorial committee of *Acta Médica Peruana*, the journal of the Medical Association of Peru, which was able to maintain a strict publication schedule while he was on the committee.

His most notable managerial role was as editor of the Peruvian Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, a position he held for 31 years since 1994, despite changes in the institution's leadership, until shortly before his untimely death. His presence in the SPOG journal not only gave it fluidity and uninterrupted periodicity, but also evident prestige at the Latin American and global levels, as evidenced by the journal's registration in various indexing services, the most important of which is Scopus, which opened the doors to the reading of articles published in different countries around the world, as well as requests from many researchers in many countries to publish their articles in the journal. This hard work earned him the honor of having the SPOG inaugurate the "José Pacheco Romero" Meeting Room in his honor, as a way of perpetuating his memory.

José Pacheco was also editor of the Journal of the Peruvian Academy of Surgery and the Journal of the Faculty of Medicine, to which he brought fluidity, class, and prestige. All these activities carried out by our beloved Pepe led the Vice-Rector of the University of San Marcos to award him the Prize for the publication of the best scientific journal.

We cannot conclude this memoir without mentioning José Pacheco's humanism, which he practiced in all his professional, healthcare, teaching, administrative, research, and social outreach activities. He brought a deep love for his profession, great dedication, respect for his patients' rights, and empathy for his patients, colleagues, and students to these activities. His simplicity, humility, prudence, and love of music, which made him a true paradigm of Peruvian gynecology and obstetrics and a beautiful example of *bonhomie*, that is, a man of good character.

For all this, Pepe, for all that you left us, rest in peace in eternity and enjoy eternal glory.

Lima, July 2, 2025