

# editorial

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## The Rubio Memorial Lecture

**T**he Rubio Memorial Lecture is an annual event sponsored by the Department of Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine consisting of a series of lectures and teaching activities offered by a distinguished physician in the field of hepatology. Guest lecturers have included Howard Thomas, Joan Rodés, Roberto Groszmann, Jorge Rakela and most recently Nicholas LaRusso.

The lecture honors the memory of Dr. Carlos E. Rubio, a gastroenterologist and hepatologist by training and an educator by choice. Dr. Rubio joined the faculty of the Department of Medicine in 1962, and remained active until his death in 1992. During this thirty years span, he was responsible for training most of the gastroenterologists in the Island, directing for many years what was then the only Training Program in Gastroenterology in Puerto Rico. The excellence of the program made it highly competitive, assuring the quality of the physicians starting the practice of gastroenterology in the community. The intellectual honesty, spirit of inquiry, healthy skepticism, dynamism and strive for excellence that characterized Carlos Rubio became part of the environment of the Gastroenterology program. Always ready to question, his strong personality left an imprint on his trainees, instilling in them the importance of a scientific approach. This characteristic was evident in all his professional activities and transcended beyond the confines of the Gastroenterology Section and the Department of Medicine.

During his last years at the School of Medicine, Dr. Rubio dedicated most of his time to the development of clinical research in the Gastroenterology Section. He was responsible for obtaining funding and recruiting the first research fellow, as well as acquiring a designated area in the University Hospital for the Gastroenterology Research Unit and a nurse coordinator. Under his leadership, the Gastroenterology Research Unit evolved and became productive. The work of the Unit in the areas of alcoholic liver disease and hepatitis C has led to national and international presentations and publications. A tradition of clinical investigation was established in the Gastroenterology Training Program, and a year of research was added to the fellowship.

The Rubio Memorial Lecture is a recognition to the years of service offered by Dr. Carlos E. Rubio to education, research and service in our academic community.



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