

In memoriam: Kamel Matar Sattuf (April 3, 1966 - January 4, 2023)

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Kamel Matar Sattuf was born in the region of Ibled (Syria) on April 3, 1966. From there, he traveled to Spain in October 1984 in search of a better life leaving his family there, who he always missed and who he always talked about and supported. In Cádiz, he learnt Spanish, and in one year, he prepared for his university entrance exam. After passing it, he began his medical studies in Cádiz and Badajoz.

After finishing his degree, he trained as a pediatric surgeon in the Carlos Haya Hospital in Malaga. Once he had completed his residency, he joined our Pediatric Surgery Department at the Virgen de las Nieves University Hospital in Granada, worked for a short period in the Alicante department, and then returned to Granada, where he remained until his retirement, having obtained the post by competitive examination. And he remains here in our memory; we still keep expecting him to appear in the session room with his candid smile.

Kamel's life was short but intense, both personally and professionally, full of events that gave rise to long and very interesting conversations from which lessons were always learned.

He was an elegant, courageous (but not reckless), multi-faceted pediatric surgeon, but particularly involved in urology, thoracic surgery, and oncology; a skilled diagnostician, a teacher, kind-hearted, and always ready to help by doing favors for everyone. He earned the affection and respect of the whole hospital, and we all miss him: assistants (he was the tutor of many of them), residents, nurses, nursing assistants, orderlies, cleaners, etc. And this is the case not only in our hospital, but in all the hospitals where he worked; and also in Peligros, the Spanish town where he lived and which has dedicated a public act of recognition to him.



He was also a surgeon who showed solidarity, traveling to other countries to treat patients in need, always in a selfless and altruistic way.

Cancer, which has no regard for age, virtues, or needs, has taken him from us too soon. Kamel was considered as part of the family by all, not only his own family: Alicia, his three children, and his grandchildren.

With these words, the Pediatric Surgery Department would like to express its gratitude to him for giving us the opportunity to enjoy his knowledge as a surgeon and his friendship as a person.

Kamel, wherever you may be, a big hug and all our love.

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DOI: 10.54847/cp.2023.02.10

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Date of submission: March 2023

Date of acceptance: March 2023