

# Luis Guillermo Peredo Paz

Dr. Luis Guillermo Peredo Paz is Bolivian. He lives in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia, and speaks perfect, accent-less Brazilian Portuguese.

He is widely known in Latin America for belonging to the group of professionals that comprise the New Generation Latin American Dental Seminars (SOLA NG) and the International Academy of Integral Dentistry. Nevertheless, Dr. Luis Guillermo Peredo Paz is especially known for leaving the mark of his high-quality work and extensive Integrated Dentistry knowledge wherever he gives courses and conferences, a result of the four specialization courses as well as Master's and Doctorate's courses taken in Brazil, and his eagerness to be updated in all fields of study.

His Master's thesis in Implantodontics was evaluated by a renowned board of examiners consisted of Professors Dr. P-I Brånemark and Dr. Waldir Janson. On that occasion, his adviser Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone emphasized: "Guillermo has a very interesting global education. His multi and interdisciplinary integration makes him stand out from the crowd."

Dr. Luis Guillermo Peredo Paz has received many awards as recognition of his work inside and outside his country. One of them was the *Galardão Mexicano de Odontologia* given by the Ibero-Latin American Federation of Dentistry as a recognition of his fatigueless effort at broadening scientific knowledge and his renowned professional expertise.

He is currently an honorary member of the Chilean Society of Prosthetics and Oral Rehabilitation and a founder member of the European Academy of Implant Dentistry.

A charismatic and excellent person, he considers Brazil as his second home.

Dr. Luis Guillermo Peredo Paz feels blessed and deeply thankful to Brazil for his successful achievements. He had the opportunity to study at excellent universities in Curitiba and Bauru where he met many renowned professors. He was also privileged to share experiences and have a close relationship with Dr. Per Ingvar Brånemark, the "discoverer" of osseointegration and titanium dental implants, during his Master's course in Implantodontics.

His fluency in English allowed him to present his scientific researches at the University of Tufts (USA) and Gothenburg (Sweden), eternizing his lessons in journals and books overseas. He is deeply thankful for the lifelong and loyal friends he has made, and reveres his masters, particularly highlighting the professional example and advice given by his adviser Dr. Ado Francischone who was responsible for introducing him to Implantodontics.

It could be said that the professional career of Professor Dr. Luis Guillermo Peredo Paz has been extremely successful. It is clear that he does what he loves and is fully supported by his wife Maria Paula, a Brazilian dentist graduated from the University of São Paulo (USP) / Bauru. Such support is proportionally given by their three kids.

An interview with Dr. Luis Guillermo gives the reader an outstanding example of professionalism and personal life.

Luis Rogério Duarte



**This section of Dental Press Implantology, in which we interview an exponent of contemporary Dentistry, usually covers the reason why the expert has become interested in the profession. Thus, could you tell us what influenced and motivated you to work in the field of Dentistry?**

I am the youngest child of seven children. I was born in Montero, a little town 45 km far from Santa Cruz de La Sierra, in Bolivia. At the age of six, our family moved to Santa Cruz where I went for high school, at La Salle school.

My family always had a tendency towards Biology. My sister Norma studied Pharmacy and Biochemistry at college, whereas my other sister Aida graduated in Medicine. All of us were deeply influenced by an uncle of ours who was a highly respected doctor in town. At a young age, my father wanted to study Dentistry. However, my grandfather, who was a lawyer and a senator, did not allow him to do so, wishing his son would also become a lawyer — the career my father pursued.

In my case, I graduated high school wishing to study Medicine. After seating for an entrance exam, I started university at the School of Medicine in San Francisco Xavier — at that time, the best university in the country — in the city of Sucre, the constitutional capital of Bolivia.

In the early 80s, the country faced many political issues, followed by many putsches that resulted in closing the universities, which hindered college graduation. To avoid wasting time, I decided to seek a better alternative for my university education. And that was when I pled, in the Brazilian Embassy of La Paz, the opportunity to study in Brazil, based on an agreement established between both countries (which is still in force nowadays).

On that occasion, I was informed that there was only one vacancy available to study Medicine in Brazil. That had already been fulfilled, and for this reason, they suggested that I chose another career in the Health field, so that I could try to apply for Medicine afterwards. I chose Dentistry. A few months after I had handed in all necessary documents, the Brazilian Embassy disclosed the list of Bolivian students who were selected to study in Brazil. And I was one of them!

I remember that the course of Dental Materials I, which I took during the first semester, was a decisive factor for me to continue studying Dentistry. I liked it so much that I gave up thinking about Medicine.

**We know that you received a degree in Dentistry from the University of Paraná. Could you tell us about that experience?**

I did receive a degree in Dentistry from the Federal University of Paraná, in the city of Curitiba, from where I have great memories of very good friends and professors. During college, I went for a period of probation in Endodontics. And that was when I became interested in researching. I remember that I conducted a very interesting research on the reliability of root apex locators — which, at that time, were in their fourth generation — in teeth subjected to extraction for orthodontic purposes.



Attending SOLA NG (New Generation Latin American Dental Seminars) conference in Cochabamba-Bolivia with Mariano Flores, Rafael Roca, Rafael Mondelli and other friends.

I also fondly remember the university soccer team, for which I played during several years as the goalie. Our coach, Prof. Munir Caluf, was a great person who also had the opportunity to coach Coritiba professional soccer team.

Nevertheless, I also went through times of difficulty, among which I must highlight the initial learning of Brazilian Portuguese, in both speaking and comprehending skills; and my father's death, during my last semester at university, caused by a heart attack. A situation I struggled to overcome.

**Brazil is a country with a large number of reference centers for education, improvement and research in Dentistry. Brazilian Dentistry, especially clinical Dentistry, has been considered one of the best in the world for many years. Did such high standard of excellence influence you to complement your formal education in the state of São Paulo, where you went for specialization, Master's and Doctorate's courses?**

The University of São Paulo (USP) in Bauru was, at that time, the most prestigious reference center.

The group studying Cosmetic Dentistry, led by Prof. Dr. José Mondelli, had recently published the book *Tratamentos clínicos integrados* (Integrated clinical treatment) — the first book published within that field of study, with photographs of outstanding quality and scientific content of paramount importance.

Fortunately, on that occasion, I had the opportunity to meet a group of dentists from Curitiba who rented a bus to travel to Bauru every Thursday night to attend the classes of the specialization course. They used to leave to Curitiba on Saturday afternoons, arriving in the city on Sunday. That went on every weekend, during a whole year.

This group friendly welcomed me to join them on those trips. That was how I had the opportunity to take my first specialization course in Restorative Cosmetic Dentistry. Afterwards, I wisely decided to live in Bauru, not only due to the wide scope of the course,



Master's group (2005) at Sacred Heart University, Bauru/SP.

but also to its interdisciplinary approach with other specialties. The eagerness to deepen my studies in Bauru rendered my stay in Curitiba unfeasible.

I took my second specialization course in Prosthesis with Prof. Dr. Waldir Janson on weekends, which allowed me to develop other activities during the week, for instance, a clinical residency in Cosmetic Dentistry. Profs. Dr. Mondelli and Dr. Francischone gave me the opportunity to contribute to some researches in that same department where I was also allowed to treat the employees of the university by trying new material and preparing the documents of the cases. That was certainly a period of great discoveries and learning, a result of the time I used to spend at the university and at the library during the week, and the specialization course on weekends.

The specialization in Periodontology came afterwards. One thing led to another. The specialization in Prosthesis required in-depth knowledge of tissues. For this reason, before completing the course on Prosthesis, I had already had classes on Periodontology with great professors — Dr. Euloir Passanezi, Deoclécio Nahas and Waldir Janson, a member of the Interdisciplinary Program of Higher Education (PROFIS).

At the same time, one week per month during two years, I had the opportunity to take a spectacular course on Periodontal Prosthesis with professors Waldir Janson and Euloir Passanezi. This course included fantastic and unforgettable lessons on oral rehabilitation, occlusion and Periodontology.

Finally, to complete this cycle, I decided to study apical endodontic surgery with professors Clóvis Bramante and Alceu Berbet before going back to Bolivia. That was when I took the specialization in Endodontics, a subject I enjoyed since my undergraduate course. During that course I met Paula, a classmate to whom I married as soon as I went back to Bolivia.

The time I spent in Bauru was essential not only for the future of my personal life, but also for my professional career. It allowed me to, later on, practice what I had earned during all those years, applying the knowledge I acquired in the city I chose to live: Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia.

I usually say that everything I own, I owe to my parents, who encouraged me to pursue the best education I could possibly have; and, to the same degree of intensity, to Brazil, the country that opened me the doors to higher education, allowing to meet incredible

people and experts who welcomed me and permanently supported me. It also gave me the opportunity to start a family with my Brazilian wife, Paula, and our three children: Juan Guillermo, Ana Paula and Luis Esteban who are Brazilian-Bolivian. In Brazil, I feel at home, as in my own country.

**You used to teach at the Bolivian Catholic University. Nowadays, you are a professor at the Postgraduate Center of the College of Dentists and owner of *Peredo Tecnologia y Arte en Odontología*, a reference center in implants and oral rehabilitation, both in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia. Do you believe that your devotion to teaching results from vocation, from an ongoing and necessary quest for updated knowledge or from the positive and direct influence of your former professors?**

I believe it is a result of all the factors you mentioned. Teaching is a very serious, serene and committed vocation. We must be free from any sort of selfishness to be able to welcome feelings of joy and plenitude, especially when we follow our students' progress closely, watching them as they become successful in their career as well as in their lives. A good and real professor must be generous in his lessons to be able to set an example and influence students' behavior, gather followers, and become an important leader and adviser.

Preparing a lesson is a very time-consuming, but rewarding activity that allows professors to improve their knowledge: the most motivating and inspiring source of life of any professor.

I have been deeply blessed throughout my whole life, since I left home at the age of 16 to go on an exchange sponsored by the Rotary Club in the United States of America. At the age of 18, I moved to Curitiba for college, and at 23, I arrived in Bauru. That was where I met Prof. Carlos Eduardo Francischone who, since our first meeting, proved to be a good friend that has always welcomed and supported me. His highly respected professionalism has influenced and encouraged me to become an ongoing learner.



Giving thanks to and welcoming Prof. Brånemark at Santa Cruz de La Sierra/Bolivia (Legislative Council, 2005).

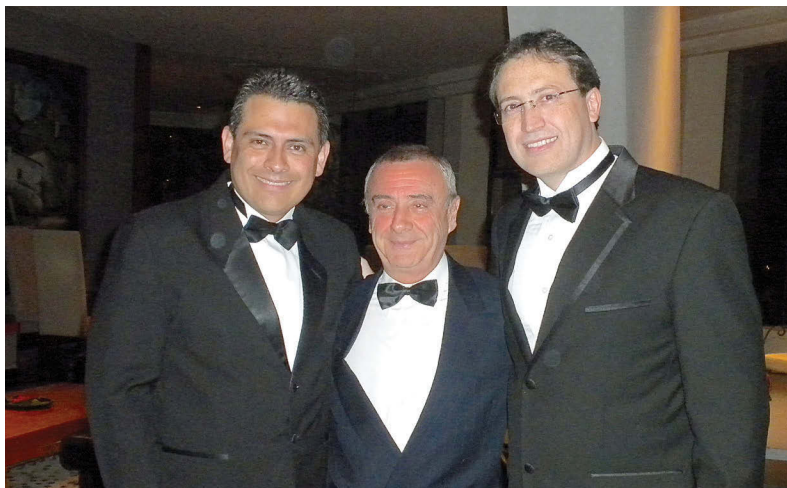
As for Prof. José Mondelli, he was responsible for my love for teaching. In fact, I did not intend to pursue a career in teaching because the city I chose to live and work did not have a School of Dentistry. For this reason, my initial goal was to practice integrated Dentistry as satisfactory as possible. It seems probable that Prof. Mondelli's experience, sensibility and intuition led that highly qualified professor to perceive a tendency that was unknown to me at that time, and which would have to be developed later on. Thus, he began to motivate me to go in that direction. I deeply acknowledge and sincerely express my gratitude to him every time I perform such noble duty.

It is worth mentioning that, when I was an undergraduate student, the School of Dentistry at the University of São Paulo in Bauru used to be naturally "addicting", in terms of consistent learning, and often induced students to find out their vocation in teaching.

I believe this was a result of the unquestionable quality of the job performed by professors such as Drs. Waldir Janson, José Mondelli, Euloir Passanezi, Carlos Eduardo Francischone, Clovis Bramante and Alceu Berbet, all of which had a high level of professionalism and exceptional didactics.

**Professionally speaking, you are known for your ability to work in different areas within the Dentistry field. In other words, you are a dental surgeon in the true sense of the word, someone who skillfully joins theory and practice. Not long ago, successful professionals had to be specialists. Nowadays, working in high-quality Dentistry requires multi-specialized professionals. What is your opinion about that?**

A clinician must receive high-quality basic education. He must know a good deal about the subjects that interact with his specialty in order to be able to diagnose, plan and perform his job as accurately and correctly as possible. Teamwork is also essential. Working in partnership with well-prepared, up-to-date specialists of moral and ethical principles, who share the same desires for growth and development, is imperative. The better the professional's education is, the shorter treatment time will be.



With Drs. Anibal Alonso (Argentina) and David Ovando (Guatemala).

Dental procedures as well as Dentistry in itself have changed a lot around the world, making rapid progress that hampers professionals to ideally follow such development. Practicing Dentistry with perfection requires a vast knowledge that is only acquired by attending courses and conferences, as well as by studying hard.

Technology has advanced at a rapid pace and demands that we be constantly up-to-date in our profession, particularly because with all the information available on the internet, some patients arrive for their appointment questioning their dentist, putting him in a difficult situation in case he does not have enough knowledge on the subject.

**The advent of osseointegration, incorporated to Dentistry by Prof. P.I. Brånemark, completely changed the methods of treating oral invalids around the world. At the same time, several multi-centric studies on recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein and stem-cells are being conducted and have advanced by leaps and bounds in the search for new therapeutic solutions.**

**Which lines of research do you believe will have a major impact on Implantology and Dentistry in the next decades?**

I believe that changes in Medicine and in the Health Sciences will happen at an increasingly rapid pace. Undoubtedly, studies on stem-cells and morphogenetic protein will change the way we treat patients. We have been currently working with leukocyte- and platelet-rich fibrin (L-PRF) which, differently from platelet-rich plasma (PRP), has yielded satisfactory results.

L-PRF has proved to be effective, positively contributing to some methods of treatment, especially for being an inexpensive and simple procedure that consists of collecting material from the patient (venous blood), centrifuging it in a device that is easily available and applying it onto the site to be prepared. We hope that the long-term results of our experiments be as satisfactory as those yielded by studies conducted on hard and soft tissues. Should that be the case, L-PRF will be widely used not only in Dentistry, but also in Medicine.

**You have attended several international scientific events as a speaker and researcher, disseminating new procedures and techniques. What is the main subject that motivates you and, at the same time, raises your interest in passing your knowledge on to others?**

I believe that the final esthetic result is what really matters to patients. Thus, during my courses, I like to discuss the importance of comprehensive treatment and planning aiming at esthetics, health, function and longevity, all of which are achieved by means of simple and low-morbidity procedures that do not impair patients' well-being.

**In addition to the conventional use of autograft as the “gold standard” of grafting procedures, the techniques of bone reconstruction of atrophic maxilla in totally edentulous patients currently offer a wide range of biomaterial available on the market and aim at optimizing prosthetic rehabilitation of patients with limiting variables. In spite of natural difficulties such as systemic disorders and old age, these techniques yield satisfactory results that have been proved by several researches. Which would be your treatment of choice when treating patients with the aforementioned characteristics: bone graft or zygomatic implants?**

Implantology has considerably changed in its 50 years of existence. During my Master's course at Sacred Heart University, I was honored to meet Professor Dr. Brånemark in person when he decided to move from Gothenburg, Sweden, to Brazil (Bauru/SP). I also had the immense pleasure of having the opportunity to work with Dr. Luis Rogério Duarte and professor Hugo Nary Filho on our dissertation on the rehabilitation of atrophic maxilla using four zygoma fixtures in immediate loading system, as proposed by P.I. Brånemark. That was a very important experience in my professional career, with which I learned a lot about atrophic maxilla and its rehabilitation methods. The excellent results of that two-year research provided us with a wide choice to treat oral invalids.



Doctorate's group (2010) at Sacred Heart University, Bauru/SP.

The enthusiasm was infectious, and a lot of people were willing to learn the new technique, including professionals who came from overseas to meet and observe our team.

However, time has proved that this technique must be used as a last resort, only; after all other treatment options have already been considered. Moreover, it must be employed by a skillful team of experts, in very specific cases, carefully selected, studied and planned for rehabilitation of atrophic maxilla using the four zygoma fixtures in immediate loading system.

On the other hand, the great progress made by bone substitutes associated with the technological development of surfaces and implant design has substantially reduced the need for autograft.

**Global science and research have been increasingly interested in investigating the biological particularities of the binomial bone-implant. Recurrent studies on macro design, implant surface treatment and prosthetic components seem to constantly prove such concern. The large amount of new material being launched for surgical and esthetic rehabilitation, and the speed with which new products are introduced into the market, often hurry the natural flow of research, interfering in the results, altering pre-established protocols, and undermining the credibility of such material. What is your opinion about it, and what would you recommend for professionals within the Dentistry field?**

Professor Brånemark and his team were very careful when proposing a protocol for osseointegration. It is a pity that, nowadays, several companies hurry to launch new products and, with a few exceptions, save little time to test their effectiveness and performance. For this reason, it is important to demand from manufacturers the scientific results of researches conducted with their products, so as to prevent patients from being used as human experimental models.

We need to be aware of the advances in technology, but without necessarily being the first ones to catch or hop into the train.



Receiving the *Galardão Mexicano* award in Cancun with renowned colleagues from other countries.

**We see important friends along our professional career. Our professors are certainly included in that list, directly influencing the way we think and act, not only in our professional career, but also in our personal life. Would you like to highlight someone in particular who has decisively contributed to your formal education?**

Undoubtedly, since I arrived in Bauru, I had the opportunity to have a close relationship with Prof. Francischone not only as a true and loyal friend, but also as a professor and a guru who wisely advised me. He directly influenced me to work and study in the field of Implantodontics. At the end of 1991, I went back to Bauru to implement an agenda, which included the university library, make a few Xerox copies, keep me up-to-date and visit some of my friends, including Dr. Ado, at their private clinics.

At that time, I knew nothing about osseointegrated implants. On that occasion, Dr. Ado questioned me about the theme, and invited me to attend a course in Rosario, Argentina: an invitation to which I promptly accepted. He immediately telephoned the lead of the group that would be travelling to Rosario in May, 1992, whose proposal was to spend a week in the city to learn more about the subject.

After that, I went on taking other courses on implant studies which, with the experience I had in Periodontology and Prosthesis, became easier and easier. Henceforth, I never left the field of Implantodontics. In 2003, I went back to Bauru for my Master's at Sacred Heart University where, in 2008, I began the doctorate course, both in Implantology, advised by Ado.

### Thinking specifically about your profession, what are the main differences between Dentistry practiced in Brazil and Bolivia?

Bolivia is considerably influenced by Dentistry practiced in Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

When I was an undergraduate, many Bolivian students went to Brazil for college. Nowadays, most Bolivians remain in our country to study due to the large number of colleges all around Bolivia. For us

to have an idea, only in Santa Cruz there are five colleges, and soon, there will be six. Additionally, the costs of studying in Bolivia are much lower. It is a pity that the level of education remains too low, with underpaid professors who, as a consequence, go to other countries for specialization and Masters' courses which, on the other hand, has improved the level of Bolivian Dentistry.

### Between 2003 and 2005, you were advised by Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone and Prof. Per-Ingvar Brånemark during your Master's course in Brazil. In your opinion, what are the main lessons you learned during this period, personally and professionally speaking?

We were a privileged group at the Master's course at Sacred Heart University in Bauru (2003-2005). Our academic staff, prestigiously led by Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone, included Prof. Dr. Ivette Sartori and Dr. Gilmar Batista, in the Department of Prosthesis; and, Hugo Nary Filho and team, in the Department of Surgery, directly followed and assisted by Prof. P.I. Brånemark who shared his own experiences during seminars, speeches and visits he made to the university clinics. It indeed was a fantastic experience for a small, but privileged group of six Masters students (Reinaldo Janson, Hélcio Lira, Daniela Mattos, José Bernardes das Neves and I) who had the opportunity to study and work with the father of osseointegration. It has probably been one of the most important periods of our formal education.

Having a close relationship with such renowned professor opened us many doors, giving us the opportunity to present, at the University of Tufts, Massachusetts (USA) and in Gothenburg (Sweden) our research on the rehabilitation of atrophic maxilla using the four zygoma fixtures in immediate loading system.

I also had the overwhelming joy of having Prof. Brånemark as a member of my Master's board of examiners, which also included Prof. Dr. Waldir Janson and my adviser, Prof. Francischone. There were times of tension, but also of immense prestige for both my professional career and personal life.



Wine and cheese night during an event organized by the Northeast Association of Osseointegration (AON) besides Dr. Guillermo Peredo, and from left to right: Profs. Drs. Mauricio Barreto, Fred Nigro, Tomas Albrektsson and Franklin Leahy (Salvador/BA, Brazil).

**In 2005, Prof. Brånemark visited Bolivia for the first and only time. How was that experience? What did such an important fact represent to your country?**

When we were in Gothenburg, our group was invited to have dinner at Prof. Brånemark's house. On that occasion, I invited him to visit Santa Cruz de La Sierra, in Bolivia, and attend a conference we would organize in his honor, an invitation to which he accepted. Having him in our country was a daunting, but highly successful challenge, a milestone for Bolivian Dentistry. The conference we held had participants coming from all over the globe, including our neighbors Argentina, Peru, Chile, Paraguay and Brazil, and had Profs. Laerte Vasconcellos, Israel Chilvaquer, Carlos Eduardo Francischone, Cesar Arita, Rogerio Duarte, among other important experts of Brazilian and international Implantology, as speakers. I believe that was the most important scientific dental conference ever held in Bolivia. He and his wife, Mrs. Barbro Brånemark, were welcomed by the Legislative Council of the city and deemed official guests. It certainly was an unforgettable event.

**What is your opinion about the advances in Implantodontics in the last 10 years? What are the major advances for patients and professionals?**

To my view, Implantodontics has considerably advanced. Immediate loading, for instance, has made huge advances after standardized protocols were established and scientific support was made available, allowing us to perform procedures that not only go from rehabilitation of a single tooth to full rehabilitation, but also yield more predictable and safer results. Improvements in implant surface, in addition to macro-geometry associated with instrumentation techniques, have contributed to reduce the waiting time for implant activation, ensuring that patients will not be without fixed teeth for several months and preventing them from being subject to a new surgical procedure carried out to expose implants for prosthesis. This makes the procedure much more appealing for both patient and dentist.



With Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone during his Doctorate graduation ceremony.

The advent of platform switching between an abutment and an implant has significantly contributed to reduce cervical peri-implant bone loss, in addition to being an important factor when choosing the type of implant as well as the type of connection, especially in esthetics.

Likewise, I believe that the advances in treatment planning and study carried out with increasingly sophisticated, far-reaching and facilitative software that not only aim at reducing surgical time, but also at yielding satisfactory esthetic and natural results, are of paramount importance.

**You are a specialist in Cosmetic Dentistry, Endodontics, Periodontology and Prosthesis, but you also have a Master's and Doctorate's degree in Implantology. After so many years of devotion to Dentistry, are there any facts that make you**

**regret the path you have taken? Do you consider it difficult to remain in such path? Has your family influenced you along the way?**

In my opinion, having several specializations was of paramount importance, since it allowed me not only to have a broader view of all treatment procedures, but it also allowed me to provide patients with the best solution from a comprehensive standpoint.

I have never given priority to Endodontics in my clinical practice, given that my wife Paula is a specialist in that field of study (University of São Paulo – Bauru). But to my view, it is impossible to think about Prosthesis without referring to Periodontology or Implantodontics, and vice-versa. They totally depend on each other. The details state the difference between two or more types of treatment. And, with all the information available as well as with patients' esthetic demand, I believe it is essential to study the aforementioned disciplines in depth.



With his great friends Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone and Ana, Franklin Leahy and Gracinha during the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Prof. Dr. Carlos Eduardo Francischone's students and former students.

Dentistry is a career that requires a lot from professionals due to being a wide field of study that demands dedication, research, focus on details, concentration, manual dexterity, human relations, etc. Thanks to Dentistry, I can provide my family with everything they need. It gave me the opportunity to start a family, make good friends and meet great professors. I have had a lifelong devotion to my career, which I have built with great joy in spite of it being tiring as a result of the long time I spend at my clinic. Nevertheless, the courses I give allow me to find a balance between things by changing my work environment and focus, even though the theme remains the same.

When my wife Paula and I first began our activities in Santa Cruz, the fact of both of us being specialists arose a great deal of deference which, thank God, resulted in a large amount of work that, in turn, was a consequence of the countless hours of study we spent in Bauru.

Paula has been utterly important, always encouraging me to make progress in my career. She plays a major role in my family and my professional career. We have three children: Juan Guillermo who has a degree in Marketing and Finances (USA); Ana Paula who is in second year of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Rochester (New York), and Luis Esteban, the youngest, who has already told us that he will not pursue a career in Dentistry. It is a pity that none of our children has taken an interest in our field of study, which would certainly make things easier for them, given the well-advanced, safe and strategic start we carefully made towards an extremely beautiful and dignifying work.

But I fully respect their decision.

**You are a very beloved figure in the Dental field. And you probably have many Brazilian friends. What is your opinion about Brazil in comparison to the rest of the world in terms of Dentistry?**

The time I lived and visited Brazil to attend courses, lectures and conferences, allowed me to meet a lot of people, and make good friends in and out my

field of study. It is highly possible that I have made friends with people from every Brazilian state, not only because Bauru, a reference center in Dentistry, welcomes people from all over the place, but also because the Brazilian people are dearly beloved by foreigners. They are great and very competent people. In Brazil, people tend to say that everything ends in samba, don't they? I am certain that this is what happens during carnival and soccer celebrations. However, with regard to the subjects I am familiar with, Brazil has some key, valuable figures whose serious and competent work is highly respected within our field.

Brazilian Dentistry, and the vast majority of professionals it comprises, certainly is one of the best in the world.

**You have a close friendship with Profs. César Arita, Hugo Nary Filho and Waldir Janson. Could you tell us what each one of these experts represents to your professional and personal growth?**

César Arita was more than a friend, he was a brother to me. I met him 20 years ago, when he went to Santa Cruz with a large group of Bolivians who were on their way to an event organized by the New Generation Latin American Dental Seminars (SOLA NG) in Cuzco, Peru. SOLA NG consisted of recently graduated dentists from all over Latin America who were somehow prepared to give formal speeches. We kept in touch and attended many scientific events together. César came to Santa Cruz several times to give courses. Our colleagues were all very fond of him and, at the same time, admired the innate didactic skills of such creative and up-to-date professor. He invited me to teach a few lessons in Ribeirão Preto, and to write some papers that would be published by CESDAD, an organization of which he was one of the editors. I was honored to be his best man when he got married to Camila, and our families interacted a lot. César was very intelligent, competent and serious in everything he did; however, his polished and frequent good sense of humor always provided us with a good laugh. It is a pity he had to leave us at such a young age, in the best moment of his career, when he had bright professional prospects ahead of him. He left a huge vacuum in the lives of people who liked him, in Brazilian and international Dentistry.



Closing dinner in honor to Dr. Brånemark's visit to Bolivia at Dr. Guillermo's home, on the occasion of the IV Buccal Implantology International Conference (Santa Cruz, April, 2005).

I have been friends with Hugo Nary since he was near the end of his undergraduate course at FOB/USP and I had recently arrived in Bauru for my specialization course. Later on, we met again when I began my Master's course at Sacred Heart University in Bauru. He was a professor, while I was a student. I learned a lot about surgery with him. Afterwards, during my Doctorate's course, he was my adviser and permanent co-worker. He is definitely a brilliant and talented professional, but an even better friend.

Dr. Waldir Janson was one of Brazil's foremost exponents in the field of Dentistry, a figure I had the pleasure to have a close relationship with. He presented a show when he was teaching. I often attended many of his

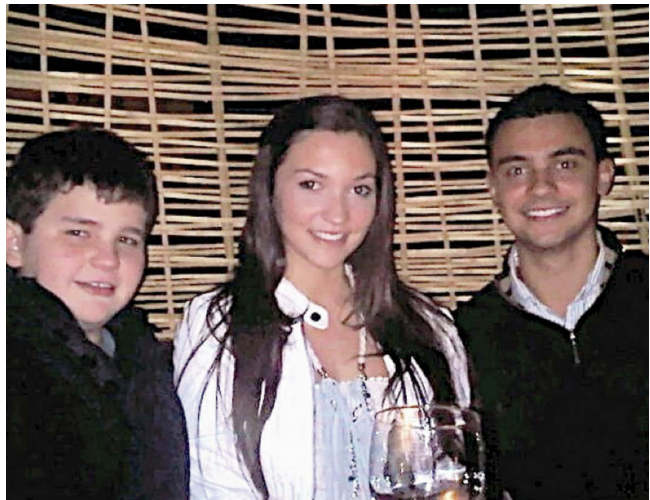


Barbecue dinner in Bauru with Drs. Conte, Mondelli and Francischone in 1991.

speeches, all given to packed audiences with a lot of people standing up. The skillful and connective manner with which he dealt with the trinomial Prosthesis / Periodontology / Occlusion encouraged his audience to proceed with their studies. He taught me a lot and changed the way I plan and perform oral rehabilitation.

**With regard to oral rehabilitation, what is your opinion on the new CAD/CAM technologies used for dental prosthesis?**

CAD/CAM systems are definitively here to stay. Soon, the most important dental clinics around the world will have their own millers used to fabricate temporary teeth, customized abutments, crown substructures, bridges, protocols and surgical guides, in a quick and direct manner. In a few years, these products will be in their best technological moment and whoever does not follow the trend will surely be considered outdated.



Master's closing party with his wife Paula and their three children Luis Esteban, Ana Paula and Juan Guillermo.

**Last but not least, we would like you to leave a message for the new generation willing to pursue such beautiful career, which has currently not been first in the ranking of choice at Brazilian universities. Additionally, we would like you to describe such picture in Bolivian universities as well.**

In Bolivia, a career in Dentistry is vigorously pursued, especially by female students. With the large amount of colleges available at a low cost, Bolivia faces market saturation with deficient undergraduate courses. This is a sign that young professionals must go on studying, taking high-quality courses that enable them to work with confidence. The results may be achieved in the long-term, but they certainly come if a great deal of effort is made. It is also important and necessary that professionals be associated with other professionals of excellent education, with similar goals and expectations, so as to achieve the desired purpose. There is a famous eastern proverb that says: "Those who walk alone might go faster, but one who is accompanied surely goes further."

Our profession is definitely in constant motion, a science that encourages us to study continuously and thoroughly. Every day, the dynamic process of introducing new technologies requires that we know them and make them available for the benefit and service of our patients.

Excellence in Dentistry is still a noble art that depends on dedication, interest and a lot of enthusiasm.

#### Interviewers



**Luis Rogério Duarte**

- » Specialist, MSc and PhD in Implantodontics.
- » Dental Press Implantology assistant editor.
- » Dental surgeon at the Renaissance Institute – Oral rehabilitation with implants.



**Franklin Leahy**

- » PhD in Implantodontics (São Leopoldo Mandic University)