

**LAUDATIO OF PROFESSOR DR. PEDRO GUILLEN GARCIA  
IN THE INVESTITURE AS DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA  
OF THE DOCTOR  
MR. STEPHEN ABELOW.**



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*Temple of the Jerónimos Monastery  
Murcia, 12 June, 2015*

His Excellency, President of the Catholic University of San Antonio de Murcia,

His most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera, Archbishop of Valencia.

Her Excellency and Magnificent Rector of this University,

His Excellency and most Reverend Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Cartagena,

The Excellent and Illustrious Academic, Ecclesiastic, Civil and Military authorities.

Faculty, staff administration and services, students and guests to this solemn academic act.

Today is a great and joyful day for the UCAM and also especially festive, with all their finery, receive as Doctor Honoris Causa the eminent orthopedic surgeon Mr. Stephen Abelow of Nevada (USA). I am grateful to our President, the Hon. Mr. D. José Luis Mendoza and to our Magnificent Rector, Ms. Josefina Garcia, for accepting the nomination from the Chair of Sports Traumatology, and secondly for the courtesy of inviting me to make his Laudatio.

I have the honour of telling you about the professional life of the Doctor Honoris Causa, one of the USA's most brilliant orthopedic surgeons in the field of Sports Traumatology, and who has the great distinction of having studied in Spain, at the Complutense University of Madrid. Subsequently, he returned to his country to practice the specialty of orthopaedic surgery and traumatology. He has always been a lover of Spain and its customs.

Thank you President and Rector.

In the following, I will comment briefly on the professional life of Mr. Stephen Abelow.

Dear professor and friend, Mr. Stephen Abelow, it is a great honour for me to make the Laudatio of your investiture as Doctor Honoris Causa of the Catholic University, San Antonio of Murcia.

“For his merits.” This is the meaning of the Latin expression DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA. It is granted in honorific mode in recognition of personal and professional merits and is the university title of the highest prestige.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, USA, in the May of 1946, when Europe was burning in the flames of World War II. Married with three children - today he is accompanied by his wife, Maria.

***Education:***

- Escuela Superior (High School): Oceanside High School 1960-1964, Oceanside, Long Island, NY.
- Universitario (College): Boston University 1964-1968 (Bachelor of Arts) Boston, Massachusetts.
- Universidad of Madrid, Faculty of Medicine: 1969-1971 (Preclinical years).
- Medical Doctor Degree (M.D.) May 1974. Hahnemann Medical College Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (number 3 in the USA in these years).
- Internship: Hahnemann Medical College Hospital, Philadelphia, 1975, General Surgery.
- Orthopaedic Surgery Residency: Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston 1978.
- Diplomated American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, July 1984.

After his specialty in orthopedic surgery and traumatology (COT), he visited the best medical centers of locomotive pathology of the USA (Boston University, Hahnemann Medical College Philadelphia, Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston) with Professor Dr. Steadman and finally practiced his specialty in the "Lake Tahoe Sports Medicine Center" South Lake, Tahoe, California, USA, as the Medical Director. There he attended the most outstanding American snow sports athletes and became a consultant in Sports Traumatology.

Twenty years ago he left Spain when he was already a prestigious orthopedic surgeon; we then reencountered him in San Francisco, on the occasion of a medical Conference on the use of lasers in orthopedics. By then had forgotten his Spanish! But his admiration for Spain soon became manifest and since then, we visit three-four times a year, has been informing us of the latest advances in orthopedic surgery in his country. He is a foreign consultant for COT and the CEMTRO clinic.

He is an excellent surgeon, excellent companion, excellent person and an excellent taster of everything Spanish. And is Ambassador in the USA and the rest of the world for our medical achievements. For his alertness in medicine and his passion for research, Dr. Abelow is one of the most prestigious lecturers in the world of Orthopedics.

After these brief comments on his human and professional training, we emphasize the following medical merits:

- Is President of Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy of the SICOT (International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology).
- Treasurer of the SICOT Foundation
- Clinical Professor of Sports Orthopedics and Traumatology of the CEMTRO Clinic.
- Honorary Professor of Sports Traumatology and Medicine of the San Antonio Catholic University of Murcia.

- Medical Director of the Lake Tahoe Sports Medicine Center, South Lake, Tahoe, California.
- Member ICRS (International Cartilage Repair Society).
- Member of the American College of Utilization Review Physicians.
- Certified American Board of Quality Assurance & Utilization Review: 1986. Recertified November 1999, 2002, 2005.
- Certified, American Board of Independent Medical Examiners: 1997. Recertified October 2003.

### *Publications/Presentations*

- Matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation of the patella from ACI to MACI to ICC in the patellofemoral joint. Springer Verlag, 2014.
- Osteochondral lesions of the talar dome: New horizons in cartilage replacement in AANA advanced arthroscopy, the foot and ankle. 2010.
- Increasing the dose of autologous chondrocytes improves articular cartilage repair: Histological and molecular study in the sheep animal model (co-author). Cartilage 2014
- Arthroscopic delivery of matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implant: International experience and technique recommendation (co-author). Cartilage 2012
- Arthroscopic technique for matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation for the treatment of large chondral defects in the knee and ankle, operative, techniques in orthopedic, articular cartilage surgery. Elsevier. October 2006

- The future of management of articular cartilage injuries: Gene therapy and cartilage repair (co-author), in *Journal of Sports Physical Therapy*, fall 2006.
- Use of lasers in arthroscopic surgery in advanced arthroscopy. Springer-Verlag, 1999.
- Laser-assisted capsular shift for multidirectional instability of the shoulder. *Techniques of Sports Medicine*, October, 1997.
- Overview of current laser use in orthopedics in the United States: And arthroscopic laser surgery clinical applications. Springer-Verlag. 1995.
- Use of lasers in Meniscal surgery. In *Current Techniques & Arthroscopy*, J. Serge Parsien, Editor, 1996.
- Use of lasers in orthopedic surgeon surgery. *Orthopedics*, Mayo 1993.
- Orthopedic grand rounds: Use of lasers in orthopedic surgery. A) University of California Davis, Sacramento Medical Center, 1991. B) New England Baptist Hospital-Boston, MA, December 1991. C) Tufts New England Medical Center-Boston, MA, April 1992.
- Holmium laser. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Instructional Course, Richmond, VA, October 1992.
- CO2 laser. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Instructional Course, Richmond, VA, October 1992.
- Use of lasers in arthroscopic surgery: Current concepts, Symposium, Arthroscopy Association of North America, Boston, MA, April 1992. Complications and cost analysis of laser surgery, Arthroscopy Association of North America, Desert Springs, CA, April 1993.



- Future of lasers in orthopedic surgery. International Society of Laser Medicine & Surgery, Anaheim, CA, December 1991.
- Use of Holmium laser in knee arthroscopy. International Society of Laser Medicine & Surgery, Anaheim, CA, December 1991.
- Laser-assisted endoscopic carpal tunnel release. Instructional Course, orthopaedic Laser Society of North America, October 1991, December 1991, March 1992.
- Faculty, San Diego Shoulder Arthroscopy (James C. Esch), M.D., San Diego, CA, 1987-2010. Laboratory Director, 1998-2003.
- Faculty, Endoscopic Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction, Laguna Hills, CA, July 1990, July 1992, November 1993.
- Faculty, Endoscopic Carpal Tunnel Release, Laguna Hills, CA, May 1991, October 1991.
- Faculty, Shoulder Arthroscopy, Laguna Hills, CA, September 1989, May 1991, June 1992, March 1993, November 1994, November 1995, October 1996, November 1997, October 1998, October 1999, October 2000-2006, December 2007, October 2008-14.
- Faculty Orthopaedic Laser Society of North America Instructional Course, October 1991, December 1991, March 1992.
- Ski Doc. Column, Starting Gate (weekly sports medicine article in the professional ski racing newspaper), 1986-1999.
- Faculty, Shoulder Controversy/Shoulder Arthroscopy, September 2014, Laguna Hills, CA.
- Faculty, Shoulder Arthroscopy, AANA Motor Skills Workshop, 1992-2005.

- Faculty, Elbow Arthroscopy, AANA Motor Skills Workshop, November 1996-2000.
- Faculty, Ankle Arthroscopy, AANA Motor Skills Workshop, November 1998-2007.
- Associate Master Instructor, The Masters Experience/Shoulder, AANA Orthopedic Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, 1994, 1995, 1996 (2) 1997 (2), 1998, 1999(2) 2000, 2001, 2002 (Master Instructor 2), 2003, 2004.
- Master Instructor, The Masters Experience/Knee, AANA Orthopedic Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, September 2000.
- Master Instructor, The Masters Experience/Shoulder, AANA Orthopedic Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, June 1998, July 2002.
- Associate Master Instructor, The Masters Experience/Ankle, AANA Orthopedic Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, October 1996-2009.
- Use of lasers in arthroscopic shoulder surgery. Shoulder Arthroscopy, San Diego, CA, June 1994.
- Use of lasers in shoulder arthroscopy. California Orthopedic Association Annual Meeting, Squaw Valley, CA, May 1994.
- Use of 1.44 >MD:YAG laser in small joint arthroscopy. Philadelphia, PA, January 1994.
- Complications of laser surgery. American Society of Laser Medicine & Surgery, San Diego, CA, April 1995.
- Lasers for shoulder instability. Shoulder Arthroscopy. 1995 San Diego, CA, June 1995-1996

- Laser controversies. Instructional Course Lecture, Arthroscopy Association of North America Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 1997.
- Laser controversy. Instructional Course Lecture, Arthroscopy Association of North America.
- Use of lasers for multidirectional instability. Shoulder Arthroscopy in 1997, San Diego, CA, June 1997.
- Thermal modification of capsular tissue for shoulder instability. Shoulder Arthroscopy 1998, San Diego, CA, June 1998.
- Use of laser in shoulder arthroscopy. SICOT Sidney, Australia, April 1999.
- Thermal modification of capsular tissue for shoulder instability. 1999 Instructional Course, ISAKOS, Washington DC, May 30, 1999.
- Co-chairman, Lake Tahoe Knee & Shoulder Sports Medicine Update, December 1996-2000 (500 participants, international faculty of 50)
- Thermal controversies in shoulder arthroscopy. Instructional Course Lecture, AANA Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, April 2000.
- Use of thermal energy in the ankle. Instructional Course Lecture, AANA Annual Meeting, Miami, FL, April 2000.
- Complications in anterior cruciate ligament surgery: How to avoid them. International Knee Symposium, Madrid, Spain, January 2002.
- Fracture lateral process of talus in snowboarders. International Ankle Congress, Madrid, Spain, November 2002.
- Thermal modification for chronic ankle instability. International Ankle Congress. Madrid, Spain, November 2001.

- How I do my ACL-my favorite technique. International Knee Symposium, Madrid, Spain, January 2003.
- ACL reconstruction in children with open physes (skeletally immature). Congress of Pediatric Sports Training, Murcia, Spain, March 2003.
- Ski and snowboard injuries in the immature athlete. Congress of Pediatrics Sports Training, Murcia, Spain, March 2003
- Moderator. Current concepts and use of laser, RF and other wavelengths in orthopedic surgery. SICOT International Meeting, San Diego, CA, August 2002.
- Use of RapidLoc Meniscal repair system. International Knee Symposium. Madrid. Spain, January 2002.
- Treatment of cartilage lesions in the athlete's knee. Keynote Address, European Federation of Orthopaedic Sports Traumatology (EFOT), March 2004.
- Matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for large chondral defects of the knee and ankle. American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Annual Meeting, Keystone, CO, July 2005.
- Matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for large chondral defects of the knee and ankle. Current treatment of cartilage defects in the athlete's knee. American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine Course, Rosemont, IL, August 2005.
- Matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for large chondral defects of the knee and ankle. AANA, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canadá, May 2005.
- Knee lab instructor, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, Rosemont, IL, August 2005.

- Moderator. Meniscus Symposium, SICOT Triennial Meeting, Istanbul, Turkey, September 2005.
- Arthroscopic technique for shoulder instability repair, what's new in orthopedic surgery. Madrid, Spain, November 2005.
- Current treatment of chondral defects of the knee. International knee Symposium, Madrid, Spain, January 2006.
- Avoiding complications and pitfalls of anterior cruciate ligament surgery. International Knee Symposium. Madrid. Spain. January 2006.
- Second and third generation treatment of chondral injuries, the Swedish experience, Spanish experience, Italian experience and American experience. Instructional Course lecture. Moderator. American Orthopaedic Society of Sports Medicine. Hershey, PA, July 2006.
- Membrane/matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for large chondral defects of the knee and ankle. Instructional Course Lecture, American Orthopaedic Society of Sports Medicine, Hershey, PA, July 2006.
- Current treatment of cartilage lesions. Summer Course. University Rey Juan Carlos, Aranjuez, Spain, July 2006.
- Treatment of anterior cruciate ligament injuries. SICOT International Symposium. Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2006.
- Meniscus repair techniques. SICOT International Symposium, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2006.
- Collagen meniscus implantation. SICOT International Symposium, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2006.

- Allograft meniscal implantation. SICOT International Symposium, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 2006.
- Membrane/matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation for large chondral defects of the knee. Arthroscopy Association of North America, Masters Experience, Cartilage, Rosemont, IL, September 2006.
- Membrane/matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation for large chondral defects of the ankle. Arthroscopy Association of North America, Masters Experience, Cartilage, Rosemont, IL, October 2006, September 2007, September 2008, September 2009.
- Anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction, 30 years' experience and current concepts, "Visiting Professor, Northwestern University, October 2006.
- Current and future treatment of cartilage defects of the knee and ankle. Wavering Lecturer, Northwestern University School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, October 2006.
- Current treatment of chondral injuries of the knee and ankle. International Tissue Engineering Symposium, Madrid, Spain, November 2006.
- Arthroscopic technique for multidirectional shoulder instability, what's new in orthopedic surgery. Madrid, Spain, November 2006.
- Treatment of chondral defects of the knee. International Knee Symposium, Madrid, Spain, January 2007.
- ACL reconstruction. International Knee Symposium, Madrid, Spain, January 2007.
- Meniscal allograft transplantation. International Knee Symposium. Madrid, Spain, January 2007.

- Regenerative cartilage techniques in the shoulder- Arthroscopy Association of North America Annual Meeting, Instructional Course Lecture. Non-prosthetic Treatment of Shoulder Arthritis. San Francisco, CA, April 2007.
- New arthroscopic treatments and instrumentation for autologous chondrocyte implantation, podium presentation, Arthroscopy Association of North America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2007.
- Wireless arthroscopy, presentation at Arthroscopy Association of North America Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 2007.
- Matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation in the knee, arthroscopic techniques. ISAKOS Annual Meeting, Florence, Italy, May 2007, Osaka, Japan, April 2009.
- Associate Master Instructor, Knee & Shoulder Arthroscopy Association of North America, Master Experience, AANA Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, December 2009.
- New advances in the treatment of cartilage, lesions in the knee and ankle osteochondral transfer. ACI, MACI, AANA Masters Experience, Senior Residents and Fellows, Rosemont, IL, December 2009.
- Arthroscopic membrane/ matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation (MACI), emerging cartilage technologies in Europe. St. Joseph's Hospital, Stockton, CA, October 2009.
- Arthroscopic membrane/ matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for treatment of large osteochondral defects of the knee. SICOT, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2010.
- Arthroscopic membrane/ matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for treatment of large osteochondral defects of the knee. International Cartilage Repair Society, Miami, FL, May, 2000.

- Arthroscopic membrane/matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for treatment of large osteochondra defects of the knee. International Cartilage Repair Society, Sitges, Spain, September, 2010.
- Reconstruction of anterior cruciate ligament with autologous fibroblast or mesenchymal cells seeded on a type 1/3 collagen membrane. Western Orthopaedic Association, Honolulu. HI July 2011.
- Arthroscopic membrane/matrix autologous chondrocyte implantation for the treatment of large osteochondral defects of the knee. SICOT International Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic, September, 2011.
- ACL and allograft state of the art in the USA 2011. International Knee Symposium, Madrid Spain, January 2011.
- ACL and meniscus state of the art in the USA 2012. Clinica CEMTRO, 11th International Practical & Theoretical Course of the knee, January 2012.
- Cartilage regeneration. 12th International Cartilage Symposium, Madrid, Spain, CEMTRO Clinic, November 2012.
- New treatment for articular cartilage regeneration. International Cartilage Regeneration Symposium, CEMTRO Clinic, Madrid, Spain, November 2013.
- Orthobiologics in the shoulder, PRP. November 16, 2012, 11th International Orthopaedic Advances Symposium, November 2012. Madrid, Spain.
- Osteochondral allograft. SICOT Orthopaedic World Conference, November 2012. Dubai.
- Cartilage update. SICOT Orthopaedic World Conference, November 2012. Dubai.



- Orthobiologics of the shoulder and PRP. SICOT International World Conference. Dubai 2012.
- Osteochondral allograft. SICOT Orthopaedic World Conference October 2013. Hyderabad. India.
- Cartilage regeneration. SICOT/SBOT International Meeting, Rio de Janeiro. Brazil. November, 2014.
- Cartilage regeneration. International Surgical Research Association, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 2014.
- ACL, my favorite technique. SICOT/SBOT International Congress, Rio de Janeiro. Brazil. November, 2013.
- Autologous chondrocyte implantation/arthroscopic technique. VuMedi, February, 14, 2012.
- PRP/PRGF fact or fiction, Shoulder Controversy. Napa, CA 2011.
- Moderator, Cartilage Debate, ISAKOS, Toronto, Canada 2013.
- New advances in cartilage treatment. Brazilian Orthopaedic Trauma Society (SBOT), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 2014.
- Faculty, International Knee Symposium, CEMTRO Clinic, January 2015.

***Community Functions:***

- Board of Directors, Barton Memorial Hospital, South Lake Tahoe, CA, 1987-1997.
- Board of Directors, South Lake Tahoe Rotary, 1990-1991.
- Board of Directors, Tahoe Human Services, 1985-1992.

- Honorary Board of Directors, Tahoe Human Services, 1993-present.
- Member, South Lake Tahoe Rotary, 1986 to 2015 (present).

*Employment History:*

- Owner, Lake Tahoe Sports Medicine Center, continuously employed 1979 to present.
- Partner, Lake Tahoe Orthopedic Institute, January 1998 to Mayo 2002 (retired).
- Owner, Elite Evaluations Medical Group, 1988 to present.
- Clinical Professor, Orthopaedic Sports Traumatology, CEMTRO Clinic, Madrid, Spain (working on third and fourth generation cartilage implantation techniques) May 2002 to present.
- Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Traumatology, HON, Universidad Católica San Antonio, Murcia, Spain. CEMTRO Clinic Madrid Spain 2003.
- Chairman, Arthroscopy & Sports Medicine, International Society of Orthopedic Surgery & Traumatology (SICOT), 2011-present
- Treasurer, SICOT Foundation, 2011-present.

His preparation in the field of Orthopedic Surgery is so extensive and renowned that major societies of the specialty request him to make practical courses of education on pathology of the shoulder, knee and ankle, and on the application of autologous chondrocytes crops in chondral lesions.

He has also directed a Master Instructor for the AANA in Arthroscopic of the knee and shoulder and as Associate Master Instructor for ankle Arthroscopy. Teaches doctors in training in Arthroscopy in the major medical societies such as AOSS, AANA, SICOT, ISAKOS ICRS and at conferences

of any country that request workshops for Arthroscopy and Sports Traumatology.

It is important to note that in recent years he dedicated much of his time to research on cell culture of chondrocytes, an area in which he is a consummate specialist.

After reading his extensive academic life, his broad health care activity, his great ability as a teacher and finally his turn to research, means that before us we have one of the most prominent figures in the world of orthopedic surgery.

As you can see, his Curriculum Vitae are filled with the merits that deserve the great distinction of Doctor Honoris Causa of the UCAM.

The issue to be expounded:

*“Contribution of the Cell Culture (chondrocytes) to damaged joints”*

For all these reasons, and in recognition of his merits, I request to proceed to invest to the Doctor Stephen Abelow, the degree of "Doctor Honoris Causa" by the Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia.

*“His de causis, peto gradum, Doctori Honoris Causa Dominis Stephen Abelow”*

