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

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:

- 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.


**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


• 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.


• Master Instructor, The Masters Experience/Knee, AANA Orthopedic Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, September 2000.


• Associate Master Instructor, The Masters Experience/Ankle, AANA Orthopedic Learning Center, Rosemont, IL, October 1996-2009.


• Laser controversy. Instructional Course Lecture, Arthroscopy Association of North America.


• Use of laser in shoulder arthroscopy. SICOT Sidney, Australia, April 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.


• Fracture lateral process of talus in snowboarders. International Ankle Congress, Madrid, Spain, November 2002.


• Ski and snowboard injuries in the immature athlete. Congress of Pediatrics Sports Training, Murcia, Spain, March 2003


• 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.


• 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.


• 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.


• 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.


• Arthroscopic technique for multidirectional shoulder instability, what’s new in orthopedic surgery. Madrid, Spain, November 2006.


• 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.


• 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.


• Orthobiologics of the shoulder and PRP. SICOT International World Conference. Dubai 2012.

• Osteochondral allograft. SICOT Orthopaedic World Conference October 2013. Hyderabad. India.


• Autologous chondrocyte implantation/arthroscopic technique. VuMedi, February, 14, 2012.

• PRP/PRGF farct 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.

• 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.


• 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”