# In memoriam: Daniel J. Santa Cruz, MD (1945-2020)

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Daniel J. Santa Cruz, MD, passed away, Monday, March 30, 2020. One of his most common admonitions rings in our ears: "*You cannot diagnose what you do not know…*" He was a great husband, father, physician, mentor, and teacher—a legend in the field of dermatopathology (Fig 1). He was known to his colleagues for his humor, creativity, devotion to students, and ability to define key characteristics of pathologic processes. He focused on the keys to each and every case. He will be greatly missed.

Danny was born in Bariloche, Argentina, on November 10, 1945, and received his MD degree in 1971 from the University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the mentorship of Jose G. Casas, MD. His pathology residency and dermatopathology training were started at Ohio State University and completed at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine (WUSM) in 1977. He became a faculty member at WUSM in the Department of Pathology and the Division of Dermatology and rose to the rank of Associate Professor.

From 1986 to 1996, he worked as a pathologist and dermatopathologist at St John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1996, Danny cofounded Cutaneous Pathology, WCP Pathology, Inc, a business that employed more than 90 people and reached an annual caseload of more than 100,000 biopsy specimens.

During his career, Danny made capital contributions to the field of dermatopathology, publishing more than 140 peer reviewed articles and text book chapters covering a broad spectrum of topics in skin pathology, with an emphasis on clinical-pathologic correlation. He had a special interest in adnexal tumors and vascular lesions and was a key contributor in the seminal descriptions of 25 new conditions. Among these entities are microcystic adnexal carcinoma,[1] targetoid hemosiderotic hemangioma,[2] cutaneous lymphadenoma,[3] microvenular

**Fig 1.** Daniel J. Santa Cruz, MD (1945-2020).

From the Department of Pathology, University of Virginia Children's Hospital, Charlottesville[a]; Department of Dermatology, Saint Louis University[b]; Department of Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston[c]; Departments of Pathology[d] and Dermatology,[e] University of California San Francisco; Department of Dermatology, University of Mississippi, Jackson.[f]

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hemangioma,[4] desmoplastic trichilemmoma,[5] cellular angiolipoma,[6] phosphaturic mesenchymal tumor,[7] and the aneurysmal subtype of dermatofibroma.[8] Danny also served as the founder and editor-in-chief of *Seminars in Diagnostic Pathology* and was a member on the editorial boards of 10 other scientific journals.

Danny was known both for his wit and wisdom. A charismatic teacher and mentor, he was invited to lecture throughout North America, South America, and Europe. He also taught more than 500 dermatology and pathology residents and fellows at the microscope. His former trainees are now dermatology and pathology chairpersons, residency program directors, and faculty members at academic institutions, as well as leaders in the private sector.

Danny received numerous awards for his contributions, including the prestigious Founders Award from the American Society of Dermatopathology (2010), a lifetime award for outstanding and significant contributions to the field. He remained active in dermatopathology until the very end, routinely attending academic conferences and a local journal club, where his expertise, insight, and friendship were greatly valued. His spirit and knowledge lives on in each of us, and in those we go on to train.

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