

200 DOCTORS PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO DR. JOE D'SOUZA, 1953 - 2019



Joe wanted to make a real difference in the world, leave a legacy. He wanted to leave the world a better place for his having lived in it. There is no question that he achieved that goal.

At the Antiepileptic Drug & Device (AEDD) Trials Fifteenth Conference on May 24, 2019 in Miami, Florida, USA Henrik Klitgaard Ph.D. on behalf of the doctors, offered this tribute to Joe:

“It is with much sadness and a heavy heart that I share the passing of my friend and colleague, Joe D’Souza. Joe was not only MY colleague, he was OUR colleague. We all recognize his commitment to those who suffer from epilepsy disorders and his work at the forefront of new epilepsy treatments. Joe was fortunate to have long-term relationships with many of you present today and was always eager to engage in scientific discussions.

“A native of Goa, India, Joe received an Honors undergraduate degree at the University of Essex (UK) and obtained a Ph.D. in Biochemical Pharmacology at the University of London (UK). He joined Searle and later Ciba Geigy in Canada. He moved to the United States and worked at Novartis for 20 years as a Senior Director of Clinical development. During that time, Joe had a major role in the global development of several antiepileptic drugs, Trileptal in particular, and he was key to the preparation of three approved New Drug Applications. He continued his career at UCB, a global pharmaceutical company, where Joe worked for 12 years and provided significant strategic input to the development of both Vimpat and Brivaracetam.

“Beyond Joe’s undisputed achievements in antiepileptic drug development, his behaviour excelled in honesty, integrity and genuine concern for the well-being of his fellow coworkers. He was the kindest and most humble human being whom I have ever met and I had the greatest pleasure of calling him my friend and colleague. Joe generously shared his experience with younger colleagues and took pleasure in seeing them grow and develop, while he coached from the background. Above all, he was highly respected and appreciated and had maintained a very large network in the epilepsy community.

“Joe was also an avid sportsman, a great, competitive Squash player, and still a gentleman on the courts. Little did I know he was a Canadian Champion.

“UCB has created a US \$10,000 scholarship to honor Joe. The 2019 winner is Victoria Gonzalez from New York, NY. We can only hope that his legacy will inspire others to take the path that Joe has taken.”

Editor's Note: Dr. Joe D'Souza, (Ex. Dar-es-Salaam/Tanzania, Manchester & London/UK, Toronto/Canada, New Jersey/USA, Brussels/Belgium, Atlanta/USA) son of the late Lawrence & Emilia D'Souza, husband of Sarah (nee Pires), father of Adam, Eric & Shawn, brother of Cellie (Tony) Gonsalves, Leo (Irene) D'Souza, and late Cassy (Olive). Dr Joe D'Souza passed away on 16 February 2019 in Atlanta. For the Death and Funeral notice see <http://www.goanvoice.org.uk/printerfile.php?link=2019-02-20>