

## My mentor

# The ideal surgical mentor: R. Anthony Perez-Tamayo, MD, FACS

by *Daniel Eiferman, MD*

I have the greatest mentor a surgical resident can have: R. Anthony Perez-Tamayo, MD, FACS.

I was introduced to Dr. Perez-Tamayo early in my internship year while rotating on the cardiothoracic service at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, IL. It was immediately obvious to me that he is one of the rare individuals who excel at all three aspects of an academic surgeon: clinical, research, and teaching skills. I am extremely privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from and work with Dr. Perez-Tamayo throughout my entire general surgery residency.

Dr. Perez-Tamayo is a graduate of the Duke University general surgery program, where he also completed a critical care fellowship. He simultaneously obtained a doctorate of philosophy degree from the engineering department for his work on a novel cardiac assist device, research that he continues to conduct currently. He was granted multiple teaching awards during his training and has won the outstanding teacher award from the current cardiothoracic fellows. He truly is a master teacher, making the complex appear simple.

There are several unique aspects of the mentorship Dr. Perez-Tamayo provides. Besides the requisite supervision in the laboratory, operating room, and wards, Dr. Perez-Tamayo constantly is looking for ways to promote me and my work. His priority in mentoring me is always how he can advance my career before thinking of any personal gain. He ensures that I am introduced to leaders in the field of thoracic surgery and has approached contacts on my behalf as I interviewed for fellowship positions. He continually pushes me to become a better physician and person by preaching the virtues of loyalty, integrity, and respect.

Dr. Perez-Tamayo is an exceptional physician and surgeon as well as close friend. Our relationship extends far beyond the walls of the laboratory and hospital, and I value his guidance and friendship in my personal life as much as his surgical mentorship. He cares deeply for the welfare



Dr. Perez-Tamayo



Dr. Eiferman

of my family and has shared his family with me.

He truly is the ideal surgical mentor. He is the surgeon you want to take care of your friends and family, the teacher you want to educate your children, the researcher you want writing your grants and manuscripts, and the loyal friend you want in times of need. Ω

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