

# Advances and Aldrighetti: An Indomitable Team

Rino Aldrighetti has been instrumental in the growth of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) since joining the organization as the first paid staff member in 1999. In recognition of his recent retirement, we celebrate Rino's commitment to the organization and the positive influence he has made on the pulmonary hypertension (PH) field as a whole including his support of *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*.

From its inception, PHA held the primary goal of changing the outcome of the disease. Education was key and publishing a medical journal an important first step. Credibility for the organization was essential for PHA to achieve its goal. When PHA began to increase its involvement with the medical community, Rino initiated discussions about establishing a medical journal. Bruce Brundage, MD, who was then chair of the Scientific Advisory Board (now the Scientific Leadership Council), recalls those early conversations: "The initial concept focused on a review journal that would not publish original research. Being an academician, I thought mostly in terms of advancing science. However, I told Rino I would think about it. Ultimately, I decided the pluses outweighed the minuses—the first journal ever dedicated exclusively to PH."

The journal was named *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*, and, at Rino's insistence, included the subtitle *The Official Journal of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association*. The first issue was published in 2002, and within a year the online version was available to access. Soon after *Advances* launched, PHA began to realize that many younger physicians were eager to work with more experienced mentors. If additional points of engagement could be created, medical professionals were ready to contribute. This led to a variety of new efforts in medical and patient education, expansion of research programs, and, most recently, introduction of the PHA accreditation and registry programs. *Advances* was



Rino Aldrighetti and Stephen L. White, PhD, immediate past-chair of PHA's Board of Trustees, converse during PHA's International PH Conference and Scientific Sessions in Dallas in June 2016.

valuable on its own, but it represented something much larger.

The current editor of *Advances*, Charles Burger, MD, reflects on the importance of Rino's contributions: "My initial exposure to PHA was at one of the original conferences ... the collaborative basis for PH patients, families, and providers to focus on PH education, prevention, cure, and provision of hope was extraordinary. During one of my first interactions with Rino, he redirected the conversation to understanding exactly what PHA could provide in support of PH education nationally, regionally, and locally. Among his many accomplishments is the launching and promotion of *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*. During the past 2 years it has been my honor to serve as editor-in-chief, and without fail Rino has been supportive at every turn."

Over the past 14 years, *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension* has played an essential role in promoting medical education for PH as Rino envisioned. The journal has been influential in supporting PHA build a much stronger medical structure—one that is making this field attractive to young physicians and other medical professionals and is accelerating improved care for patients. *Advances* has

published continuously for nearly 14 years—reaching more than 40,000 cardiologists, pulmonologists, and rheumatologists each quarter—all under the dedicated efforts of Rino Aldrighetti. The publication and the PH field are immensely improved for the work he has done. "Through Rino's awareness of the potential benefits of a more broad international distribution of *Advances*, he advocated to expand the readership internationally," says Erika Berman Rosenzweig, MD, Chair of PHA's Scientific Leadership Council, and Medical Director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Center at Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. *Advances* now has a growing international readership with more than 1,500 copies of each issue sent to clinicians in more than 20 countries. In addition, Spanish and Indian versions with content tailored to the local readers are in place thanks in large part to Rino's efforts. According to Dr Burger, "Growth of *Advances* under Rino's tenure has been impressive. More than that, his devotion to education leaves a legacy that will sustain the current and future editorial boards to continually improve the journal as we 'advance' in our battle against PH."