



Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz

September 26, 1967 - September 9, 2023

Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz was born in Piñar del Rio, Cuba on September 26, 1967 to Aurora and Ramon. Due to the communist regime, they emigrated via Spain to the United States in 1968, and in 1970 made Miami their home. The family grew with two more sons, Diego and Javier, whom Ramon cared for with a great sense of responsibility. From an early age Ramon was always academically inclined, ultimately discovering his passion for oral and maxillofacial surgery at the age of 15. He went on to receive a Bachelor's degree in Biology at the Florida State University where he met Laura, fell in love and married her 11 months later. They continued their educational journey and Ramon went on to receive a Doctorate of Dental Medicine, Doctorate of Medicine and completed a Fellowship in Craniofacial surgery. The family endured the tragic death of Diego in 1993 which strengthened the value of family for Ramon.

In 1996, Ramon and Laura started a family and adopted three beautiful daughters, Julia (27) Maia (22) and Josephine (20). His love for his family and his daughters was unwavering, deep, and incredibly thoughtful. Ramon has an expansive network of family, friends, and colleagues whom he all adored. By all who knew him, Ramon was known for his exceptional story-telling ability, passionate views, and vibrant sense of humor. He loved 80s music, family movie nights, savored a good bourbon old fashioned, and enjoyed spending time in Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Ramon relished time with his

mom, Javier and his wife, Iris, and their two children, Kai and Carolina and was most happy when both families would vacation together.

Professionally, Ramon was committed and dedicated to treating children. He began his career at the University of North Carolina and in 2007, developed the Pediatric Craniofacial Surgery Program at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando. Over the course of his career he treated over 8,000 children. He was known for his compassion, loyalty, relentless pursuit of excellence, generosity, elite clinical skills, and infectious smile. Additionally, he was a mentor and educator to many, including students and colleagues in his field, for whom he always made time to provide his undivided attention in order to listen, guide, and help in any way he could. Above all he exuded gratitude for all the people who crossed his path and the opportunities he was given.

When diagnosed with cancer in May he made every effort to spend time with Laura, his daughters, family and friends. He requested to be surrounded by laughter and joy, reminding loved ones that only 90 seconds of crying were allowed. Surrounded continuously by the love of family and friends, Ramon passed away on September 9, 2023 with Laura by his side.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, September 30th at 10:00am. The service will be held at Saint Margaret Mary Catholic Church. 526 N. Park Av, Winter Park, FL 32789. Services will be live streamed via <https://stmargaretmary.org>. Following the mass, a reception will be held at the Church from 11:00-1:00. A private burial will be held for family.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Dr. Ramon L Ruiz Traveling Scholars Award at the AACMFS (American Academy of

Maxillofacial Surgeons) Foundation at this link: <https://aacmfs.net/foundation/>.

La muerte no es verdant cuando se ha cumplido bien la or a de la vida. José
Martí

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **30**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Reception - following Mass

SEP **30**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church
526 North Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall



“ *DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - September 23, 2023 at 03:34 PM



Great human being, huge heart and easy smile, he treated my daughter since she was newborn until now she is 13. You will be missed Dr Ruiz , and yes I still works at Orlando Health...you always remembered that .

Rmrz Juanjo - November 01, 2023 at 05:25 PM

RU

Great teacher with dedication and passion for his work, great experiences and teachings that left a lineage in the management of my patients, rest in peace. Rubén Muñoz

ruben - March 03, 2025 at 08:19 AM

FR

As a Bilateral Cleft Lip and Palate Patient, I went to many doctors all my life. None of them could fix me. Then I found Dr. Ruiz. After multiple surgeries with other doctors, He was the only surgeon that fixed my palate, and did it within less than a year of knowing him. I couldn't have been more grateful in my life for him doing that for me 3 years ago at age 15. By 18 he already wanted to have my rhinoplasty ready, as well as my jaw surgery. When I found out he passed away, my heart shattered. Till this day I genuinely feel like he could've been the only doctor to fix me. I truly miss him.

Felix R. - May 06, 2025 at 12:55 PM

AP

“ Dr. Ruiz performed blessings on me and my daughter. He was so sweet and Gentle, I wish he could have seen Jordyn at age 14 now, long ways from when he first seen her at 2 years old. He really change our quality of life. Thank you and rest peacefully Dr. Ruiz

Ashley Park - August 20, 2025 at 09:06 AM

JP

“ As I sit here and write this with such sadness to hear about this amazing person who has touched so many hearts. I met Dr. Ruiz the morning of my daughter's birth in 2015 and I had no idea what a cleft palate was. I always say god sent me an angel that morning when he walked into our room with the biggest smile he was so caring and knowledgeable he treated us amazing. I'm happy I got to meet him and tell him how much he made our family happy! I will always have a special place in my heart for him. I know he is up there with god as he will always be an angel! Thank you for taking care of my daughter.



Judy P - October 03, 2024 at 12:34 PM

NL

“ You saved my daughters life. What an awesome human being. Enjoy heaven Dr. Ruiz!

Nick Lutz - June 20, 2024 at 11:31 PM

HG

“ You have been such a light and such a gift to this world. You’ve made my sons life happier and healthier. We still can’t believe you’re gone. Sending love to your family.

holly Gronau - June 05, 2024 at 08:47 AM

MJ

“ Think about you every day. Wishing you peace.



Mike Jaskolka - March 03, 2024 at 09:40 PM

CA

“ I was a pediatric dental resident at UNC when Dr. Ruiz was an oral surgery resident. I had an after hours patient through the ER that was very sick with a dental infection and I felt that I needed more expertise in this matter but it was late and I was afraid to bother the oral surgery resident on call. Luckily it was Dr. Ruiz and he came in with a big smile and said “never let the sun set on pus” as he helped me treat this very sick child. To this day I tell my team “never let the sun set on pus” and I make sure I see emergencies same day. Dr.Ruiz will never know the impact he had on me as a training specialist but I know he touched so many lives and I am sorry to hear of his passing. Godspeed and prayers to his family.

Carrie Arquitt - November 25, 2023 at 11:30 PM

KC

“ I am so shocked and saddened to hear the news of Dr. Ruiz’ passing. My heart aches for his family, who he spoke of with such pride and love. He cares so beautifully for the situation of others, making his patients feel heard and understood. His intelligence and empathy showed in his approach to my daughter’s surgery and recovery. I so appreciate the care he showed with our family during a stressful time., and the confidence he instilled in us that she was in the best hands. Prayers for your family, Dr. Ruiz, you were the best!

Kim Cole Curtis - November 16, 2023 at 11:35 PM

GR

“ May his soul RIP. Dr Ruiz was my son’s Dr for 16 years, every time we would visit his office he always had the biggest smile. He was a very humble passionate Dr and never pushed surgery on us. The last time we visited his office my son was leaning towards doing jaw surgery, now I’m not sure we will trust anyone to perform the surgery now. He was an amazing dr and he made a difference in so many lives. I guess God needed him more in heaven. Definitely an angel.

Geeta Ramdeo - November 13, 2023 at 08:35 PM

PS

“ I was absolutely shocked when I read my letter today. Dr. Ruiz, there is nobody like you! You were AMAZING to my girls. My deepest sympathy to the Ruiz family.



Pam Spagnola - October 27, 2023 at 04:30 PM

VR

“ It was a surreal experience to read this news and look at his pictures. He was my next-door neighbor growing up and I have fond memories of our childhood and throughout high school. Unfortunately, we lost touch, and though it was bittersweet, I was happy to realize he touched many lives and made a name for himself. Rest in peace, Ramon Lazaro.



Victor Rodriguez - October 26, 2023 at 10:53 PM

CJ

“ I have this amazing doctor and amazing human being. He has performed surgery on my son and we have known him since my son was 2 years old he is now 20. Very sad to hear of his passing I don't think anyone will measure up to this man's heart for kids. He was and will always be amazing to us. Thank you Dr. Ruiz for bringing a smile to my son.

Carolina Jurado - October 25, 2023 at 06:45 AM

JH

“ At a loss for something to say. Dr.Ruiz performed a Leforte Osteotomy on me in 2016. Throughout the whole process, he was so kind, kept me informed and made a very uncomfortable and complicated situation turn out better than I imagined. He told me I was one of the most complicated cases he had worked on, and asked if he could use my photos etc, for future references. This man literally changed my life. It was almost 2 weeks ago in 2016 that I had my surgery. I remember him showing me his “bone cutting “ playlist he listened to during the surgery 😊. Just last week while cleaning, I found the molds of my mouth progress that he gave me as a keepsake. And As I saw the FB memories pop up, as they do, I thought “I wonder if Dr. Ruiz is still at Orlando Health...” I did a Google search, and this obituary popped up. I didn’t believe what I saw, so I searched again. And here I am. The last time I saw him was 2019-2020. He did an X-ray because I was having some concerns (turned out to be nothing). I wish I would have expressed to him how grateful I was for how he fixed me, and the impact he had on my life. The world is a little less brighter without him in it.

Jennifer Harju - October 24, 2023 at 05:19 PM

KM

“ So very sad to hear of the passing of this great man and surgeon. He has left a huge hole in many people hearts. Prayers for his family, staff and friends.

Kathy Meredith - October 24, 2023 at 10:51 AM

TS

“ Our family is heartbroken to hear of the passing of Dr. Ruiz. Our son has a very rare craniofacial condition and has seen Dr. Ruiz for the past decade. The smile he has in this picture I remember him having every time we saw him. We see a lot of different specialties and over the years have been to more surgeons than I can count. There simply was no one else like him. The skill he had as a surgeon along with the sincerity and compassion as a human being was unmatched. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family.



Terri Schon - October 21, 2023 at 07:48 PM

JR

“ Dr. Ruiz was an amazing surgeon and just overall an amazing human. He was one of the most compassionate doctors I have ever met, and he took such wonderful care of many of our mutual patients. He did so much good for many patients and their families, and he made a huge impact on many lives. His loss is tremendous to our pediatric dental community, and he will greatly be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Julie Russo - October 20, 2023 at 02:48 PM

BL

“ When our daughter was born and was diagnosed with a complex craniofacial condition Dr. Ruiz was so patient and encouraging. He walked us through treatment plan options and discussed which plan he do if Claire was his child. We felt at ease that we were handing our baby over to an amazing surgical team and they did great job on both of her surgeries. Claire is now almost 7 and thriving. We owe so much to Dr. Ruiz and his team and will always be grateful for the care they provided her and the comfort and peace of mind they provided us.

Dr. Ruiz was a rockstar surgeon and was so humble, kind, and caring. I was heartbroken to hear this news. Wishing peace for his family, who he always spoke so fondly of. Thank you for everything Dr. Ruiz 💜

Becky Lewis - October 05, 2023 at 10:35 PM

NE

“ Dr Ruiz was an answered prayer to our family, and very quickly became a good friend. We traveled from East Tennessee to Orlando for Eli's surgery. We prayed for the Best, and that is exactly what he was for us! Our hearts break for his family, but we trust in the Lord's will. He will surly be missed!



Nikki Etter - October 02, 2023 at 10:18 PM

EZ

“ *Dr Ruiz was one of the best human beings we have ever met. He changed our son Gianluca's life for ever fixing his cleft lip and palate. He also took care of my daughter Chiara with her wisdom teeth extractions, he was just about to perform jaw surgery on her next month. He also didn't want to do surgery on my son's Gabriel for his VPI and suggested intense speech therapy and now thanks to him my son will never stop talking :-)).*

He was not just a doctor, he was absolutely great whenever we went for a follow up, very kind, funny and the most loving person ever.

We are devastated and very very sad for his departure but we have great memories of him in our hearts.

May God bless the Ruiz's family and give them comfort.



Evelyn Calderon Zygadlo - September 30, 2023 at 09:47 PM

SS

“ Dear Ramon, our brother, friend, colleague, leader, amazing physician, devoted father and husband, dedicated son and brother..... I wish you could see the impact you had, as we attended your funeral today and heard the beautiful words said about you at the reception, the people who came, the lives you touched, no ordinary person can bring that many people together and every tear shed is a testament to who you are, a one of a kind person, with so much to give, compassion and as your Laura put it “ it’s starts with Generosity “ that you exuded in every moment, and as Brent reminded us of your words “it all matters” and you made it matter. While our hearts are still hurting and we miss you, we promise to be better versions of ourselves, to be more like you, to make every day and interaction count and find strength and meaning in our Creators plan. We love you always. Your APH family

shaista safder - September 30, 2023 at 03:18 PM

JG

“ Laura and family-

I am so saddened by Ramon's passing. He was such a strong healing light in this world and has done so much for so many. I have such fond memories of our times together--his sense of humor, bright smile, and giving character. My thoughts are with you all as you work through the necessary steps to find a way forward.

Love,
Jill Grant
Chapel Hill, NC

jill Grant - September 30, 2023 at 10:25 AM

GO

“ My friend and brother Ramon. The care of children in this community will never be the same without you. You were wise, extremely skilled, and dedicated to your craft. Laura and girls thank you for sharing my buddy with all of us and all the patients he helped over the years.

Greg Olavarria - September 29, 2023 at 05:24 PM

AC

Amen amen 🙏 such a tremendous loss to the world. Prayers of peace and solace to Laura and the girls.

Audrey M Colon - September 30, 2023 at 12:23 PM

AF

“ Antonia (Toni) Kolokythas, family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.



Antonia (Toni) Kolokythas, family - September 29, 2023 at 12:52 PM

AF

“ Antonia (Toni) Kolokythas, family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.

Antonia (Toni) Kolokythas, family - September 29, 2023 at 12:52 PM

DS

“ *There are no words that begin to describe the void that has been left since Dr. Ruiz’s passing. Not only was he an incredibly gifted surgeon, he was a friend, a comforter, and a healer with such a calming and peaceful spirit. I know he will be missed by so many! I know he is now rejoicing on streets of gold with his creator!*

Dr. Ruiz performed my jaw surgery in 2011 when I was a sophomore in college. Not only did he perform my surgery but he subsequently allowed me to shadow him in the operating room. I was able to spend time with him and witnessed how much he genuinely cared for each of his patients.

He was an exceptional man in so many ways! I am praying for the Ruiz family. May you feel peace and comfort in this time of great loss!



Destiny Shurte - September 28, 2023 at 12:20 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.*



September 27, 2023 at 03:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.

September 27, 2023 at 03:51 PM

“ We are heartbroken! 💔 Dr. Ramon Ruiz, is known in our family as our hero. When we adopted Kai, almost 17 years ago, Dr. Ruiz began his care for what he called one of the most severe cleft cases he had ever seen. He held our hands throughout this journey until Kai, was able to have his final surgery just days after Dr. Ruiz’s diagnosis. He helped us in so many ways, not just with Kai, but when my Mom had a cancer scare he made phone calls and referred us to a great team. When we moved to North Carolina for several years, again he went to bat for us and gave us advice as to who we should follow up there with. When my nephew was admitted to APH because of a brain tumor, he referred us to Dr. O, and although he wasn’t my nephew’s doctor, he often made time to go by his hospital room to check in and see how things were going.

At our last appt together in May, he walked in, hugged us, as he always did, along with telling his staff, “these folks are like family to me.” We chatted about our families (I am Cuban also from his same hometown.). He also always spoke about Laura and his beautiful girls, and was so proud to share their accomplishments. As we were leaving on that last day, he teased Kai when he found out he had been accepted to UF, and told him he was going to wake up from surgery with a big FSU tattoo on his chest.

He loved what he was doing and although his practice was extremely successful, never once did we feel that he was in it for anything more than helping his patients achieve a normal life, because of the passion he had for what he did.

We will miss him greatly. He was an extraordinary human being who left his mark on every heart he touched. We are blessed to have known him.



Ohilda Bombardier - September 27, 2023 at 01:04 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.*



September 26, 2023 at 06:48 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.*



September 26, 2023 at 06:38 PM

KR

“ *My family owes this man everything we have. When our 4 year old son was in a lawn mower accident, it was Dr. Ruiz that came up with a plan for him. He got the right team in place to start facial reconstruction. It was Dr. Ruiz that left his dinner to come sew a tracheostomy tube to our son's neck because we were a complicated case and no one else would do it. It was Dr, Ruiz that constantly advocated for our son. It was Dr. Ruiz that insisted our son have a say in his health care as he grew older. It was Dr, Ruiz that would calm my nerves just by stepping into the room. He has been with us, every step of the way, for the last 13 years.*

To Laura and his girls: We are heartbroken for you. He lived a life of service and will never be forgotten. God has a special place in heaven for him. We talked about you guys every time we saw each other and he was such a proud dad and husband. Thank you for sharing him with us. God bless you all.

Kim, Brad, Emma, and Jacob Roberts

Kim Roberts - September 26, 2023 at 04:02 PM

JR

“ I will forever be grateful for the time I spent working with Dr. Ruiz. I was hired to be his Medical Assistant and help with setting up his new practice at Arnold Palmer Hospital. I continued to work by his side for the next five years assisting in the growth of this special place..

I was blessed to learn about this amazing Pediatric Specialty that he felt so passionate about, and honored to oversee the Cleft Palate Clinic with him. As time went on he gave me numerous opportunities to learn and grow in this field, opportunities that I would never have had without his trust.

A day never went by when he didn't express his gratitude for the work done for him. Such a simple word "thank you" that always made me feel appreciated. I have learned to do this in my own life, because of him.

We shared a fondness for the numerous children and their families that walked through our doors. He shared his love for his family, and we bonded over humorous stories of our family dachshunds!

My heart is beyond sad, but filled with the utmost respect and appreciation for my dear friend and mentor.

I pray that Laura, Julia, Maia, Josephine and their extended family find comfort and peace from this tremendous loss.

Joan Reardon - September 26, 2023 at 03:01 PM

UD

“ UNC-Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Dept. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.



UNC-Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Dept. - September 26, 2023 at 12:08 PM

TM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



TMJ - September 26, 2023 at 12:46 AM

AB

“ Well, my family and I did not have the honor of meeting Dr. Ramon Ruiz in person, but we feel like we did. His mom Aurora is an amazing woman, who has become part of our family. Our hearts feel heavy and sad for this lost. However, from the stories told by his mom about Ramòn, we understand that he lived a purpose driven life and that is TRUE SUCCESS!

We come to this world with nothing and we can't take anything from it. God our creator, placed each one of us on this earth TO GIVE and to fulfill a divine purpose. Ramon finished his race with grace and favor. He chose to live a life that gave love and kindness to those around him. He generously sowed seeds of goodness to thousands of families through his caring heart as a professional. There is no doubt that him and his family will reap from this amazing and great harvest.

We pray that the Great Comforter/ The Holy Spirit, will guard and strengthen your hearts in a supernatural way, one day at a time.

“And Jesus said: I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby) the Holy Spirit, that He may remain with you forever—”
John 14:16 AMPC

With Love,
Amalfi and family

Amalfi Blanco - September 25, 2023 at 10:41 PM

KG

“ Dr Ramon Ruiz along with my sister Dr Cheryl Cotter performed a surgery on my husband that saved his life. Our family would not exist without them using their skilled hands and gifts from God and we are forever grateful. Prayers to Laura and the Ruiz family as they navigate through the loss of such an amazing soul. You will be forever missed Dr Ramon Ruiz.

The Gromov Family (Alek, Karen and Sashka)

Karen Smith Gromov - September 25, 2023 at 09:05 PM

EO

“ When my daughter was born 14 years ago with several difficulties, Dr Ruiz came to my room at the hospital, introduced himself and told me “ Do not worry mom, Dr O and myself will take care of her like our daughter “... and they did, they took care of her with professionalism, dedication and mostly with love. My Daughter and I always have beautiful feelings for him and we will have Dr Ruiz in a special place in our hearts.a
Gracias Dr Ruiz

Elena Ortiz - September 25, 2023 at 08:03 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.*



September 25, 2023 at 04:28 PM

AT

“ *My condolences to the family. I worked with Dr. Ruiz when he was both a resident and faculty member at UNC. He was such a kind and thoughtful man. He will certainly be missed.*

Amanda Taylor - September 25, 2023 at 04:21 PM

DA

“ *Very sorry for your loss ,he was very kind in the little time I spent with him. I pray for your families peace during this difficult time.*

Dana Salcedo APRN - September 25, 2023 at 03:47 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.*



September 25, 2023 at 10:22 AM

MC

“ *Beautiful man. Beautiful family. Such cherished friendships and memories. Love to Laura, Julia, Maia and Josephine. Ramon was the most wonderful gift to everyone he knew. xoxo*

Maria Cannarozzi and Family

Maria Cannarozzi - September 24, 2023 at 11:17 PM

LA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Laura - September 24, 2023 at 05:43 PM

GO

“ *I met Ramon in elementary school and we went to the same Jr. and Sr. High Schools. He always made me laugh and gave me the best advice. I was even the best man at his wedding to Laura. I vividly remember the wedding: he was so happy and I knew they were going to accomplish great things together.*

Few of us can say we realized our dreams, but I can vouch that Ramon did: a beautiful loving family and a professional life with meaning.

I was looking forward to giving Ramon a tour of heavenly Switzerland this summer, but instead it will be Ramon who will be giving me a tour of the real deal one day.

I will always cherish our friendship Ramon.

Gonzalo

Gonzalo - September 24, 2023 at 07:30 AM

SG

“ *Ramon was one of my numerous cherished American High Class of 85 classmates. He was quiet but so very present. I send his family love and a prayer for their strength in this challenging time. Ramon was an angelic warrior. Sharony (Andrews) Green*

Sharony Green - September 24, 2023 at 05:36 AM

MM

“ *Memories of such a cheerful man is always alive in my mind . God bless Laura and his family!*

Mehdi Mirshahidi - September 24, 2023 at 02:22 AM



“ *9 files added to the tribute wall*



Julia Ruiz - September 23, 2023 at 10:18 PM

JR

“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



Javier Ruiz - September 23, 2023 at 08:19 PM

JR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Javier Ruiz - September 23, 2023 at 08:17 PM

RS

This is fantastic!

Rachel S - September 23, 2023 at 08:32 PM

DB

“ To us, Ramon was more than just a friend, he was family. He, Laura, and the girls have been our chosen family for over 30 years. During that time, we’ve laughed together, cried together, and created a million memories that will never fade. Ramon loved with all of his heart and made sure that “good-bye” was never said without first saying, “I love you.” So good-bye my friend - we will forever love you!

Debbie and Scott Barbuto

Debbie Barbuto - September 23, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.



September 23, 2023 at 07:57 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz.*



September 23, 2023 at 07:07 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory - September 23, 2023 at 03:40 PM