DANIEL ANGEL SAVINO, MD: a conversation with the editor

Daniel Angel Savino, MD, and William Clifford Roberts, MD

Dan Savino (*Figure 1*) was born and raised in Rosario, Argentina. He received his medical degree from Rosario National University in 1972 and in 1975 migrated to the USA, where he trained in pathology in Phoenix, Arizona, St. Louis, Missouri, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, with some of the best in the profession. After completing his training at the University of Minnesota, he remained on the faculty for 2 years before coming to Baylor University Medical Center (BUMC) in 1982. In 1989, Dr. Savino was appointed director of surgical pathology at BUMC, and he has been in that position ever since. Although Dr. Savino is extremely well rounded in all phases of surgical pathology, he has focused most on various conditions of the breast. Dr. Savino is a major player at BUMC, particularly as an active participant in the various conferences in BUMC's cancer institute. He is also a much-appreciated teacher and is always available to the residents and others for consultative purposes. He is married to the lovely Marta, and they have two outstanding children. Dr. Savino is one of the good guys with a very positive attitude and a continuous smile on his face.

Figure 1. Dr. Daniel Savino.

William Clifford Roberts, MD (hereafter, Roberts): *Dr. Savino, I appreciate your willingness to talk to me and therefore to the readers of BUMC Proceedings. We are at my home on October 10, 2008. Could you talk about some of your early memories, where you were born, and your parents and siblings?*

Daniel Angel Savino, MD (hereafter, Savino): I was born in Rosario, Argentina (*Figure 2*), on April 16, 1949, and raised by my mother, Rosa Alonso, and my father, Antonio Savino (*Figure 3*). I have two older sisters, Delia Elias, born in 1939, and Lydia Norece, born in 1941. At the time, my parents were considered old when I was born. My mother was 38 and my father was 42 years old when they had me. Additionally, as my sisters are approximately 10 years older than I am, I was raised as a single child, very spoiled. My home was in a suburb with a big backyard. My father was initially in the garment industry, but later he became the CEO of his own company, designing

Figure 2. Rosario, Argentina.

silk ties. It was a profitable business and kept the family financially comfortable.

Rosario, Argentina, is centrally located approximately 150 miles north of Buenos Aires, the biggest and oldest city. It is on the bank of the Parana River, the country's largest river. As the river flows south, it gets bigger and bigger and becomes the River de Plata. Rosario became a very important port because of the access inland from Buenos Aires. The population of Rosario is 1 million; it is the largest city after Buenos Aires (with 8 million).

We lived on a big wide avenue with huge eucalyptus trees that were so tall they reached the heavens. I played with the other children in the neighborhood. We played with marbles,

From the Department of Pathology (Savino, Roberts) and the Baylor Heart and Vascular Institute (Roberts), Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas, Texas.

Corresponding author: Daniel A. Savino, MD, Department of Pathology, Baylor University Medical Center, 3500 Gaston Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75246 (e-mail: Daniel.Savino@BaylorHealth.edu).

Figure 3. Parents, Rosa and Antonio Savino, celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary.

played soccer, collected “soccer” cards (the equivalent of baseball cards), built model cars, and flew kites. There were deviant aspects to the kite flying. A razor blade was attached to the tail of the kite. We kids would then fly the kites close enough to each other so the razor blade could cut the string connected to the other kites. The last kite still flying was the winner. I never was the champion, but I wasn’t the first to be eliminated either.

I was, as my children affectionately describe, a nerd as a child. I set up a laboratory in a tool shed in the backyard, where I performed experiments on frogs. I had an endless supply of instruments in my labs, thanks to my oldest sister’s, Delia’s, profession as a dentist. Later, I decided to go into dentistry.

I remember during my first year at university, 1965, there was a student strike. Students during that time were considered “advanced thinkers,” intellectuals who wished to associate themselves with the struggles of the working people. The strike lasted for almost a year. A few of the students, myself included, took an exam covering all the material taught during the year, in hopes of receiving credit for that school year. The courses the exam evaluated included anatomy, histology, and embryology. For the histology exam, we were given slides and had to provide the correct histological diagnoses. For anatomy, a general surgeon pointed to different areas of a dissected cadaver, and students had to correctly identify the nerves, muscles, and arteries. It was a very involved exam, and I loved it. Apparently, I performed so well that one of the surgeons called me up and congratulated me for my wonderful performance. The surgeon then advised

me to pursue a career in medicine instead of dentistry. He also invited me to shadow him, which I did. The following year, which would have been my second year as a dental student, became my first year at medical school.

I was considered an excellent student and applied to become a teacher’s assistant. The application entailed going into the anatomy lab, choosing a body part, and then preparing a presentation within 15 minutes. To apply, students had to have very high grades. I won the position and was paid to be a teacher’s assistant.

Roberts: *Other than the teaching assistant position, did you work during your student years?*

Savino: My first job was when I was in medical school. I had no working experience up until that point and wanted to identify with the working class. I decided to become a waiter and serve the upper class. I had no idea what I was getting involved in. I was not a very good waiter, and the full-time staff was very protective of me. Becoming a paid teacher’s assistant liberated me from waiting tables. The experience taught me that working was harder than I realized. Being a student was much easier.

Roberts: *Were you close to your father growing up?*

Savino: I was reasonably close. The culture at the time was such that a son looked at his father in a little more formal way than happens today. My father was an authoritarian in the house. My mother was much more formal and distant than most mothers are nowadays. I naturally loved them both, but it was more respect intermingled with love.

Roberts: *When you were growing up, which meal was the big meal of the day?*

Savino: Our big meal was the evening meal. During the day, my father and sisters worked, so lunch was not the time for everyone to get together.

Roberts: *What time did you get together for dinner?*

Savino: Usually around 8:30 or 9:00 PM. We would linger and talk about the events of the day.

Roberts: *Would you talk about politics much or your father’s business?*

Savino: The discussions were usually about the children and what happened in their day. Business was something that my father took care of, so he didn’t talk about it with us. Politics was not discussed during dinner. However, politics was encroaching on the students’ lives. Perón was a populist or socialist. The government was considered by many as fascist; those who either criticized or disagreed with Perón lost their jobs. My sisters did not belong to any student political movement, so they were fortunately not affected by this corrupted interest group. I was in grade school during this time, so his government did not directly impinge on my life either.

Roberts: *What was your house like? You had a room of your own?*

Savino: Yes. It was a considerably nice-sized room, with a huge window that faced the front of the house.

Roberts: *Did you have servants in the house?*

Savino: My mother had several house helpers. Although a nice person, she was extremely demanding, and nobody cleaned or cooked exactly the way she liked it.

Roberts: *Did your mother cook the meals?*

Savino: Yes. She was an excellent cook and, as a matter of fact, so is my wife. My wife paints. She is an artist, although she doesn't sell her work and isn't interested in being known as an artist. She is creative. When she cooks she never follows a recipe, and her food is always a work of art. You must come to our house and eat Marta's cooking.

Roberts: *What age were you when you started primary school?*

Savino: Five.

Roberts: *What age were you when you entered university?*

Savino: I was an advanced student. I completed some equivalence tests that allowed me to enter university earlier than most. I started university when I was 15. I did 7 years of mandatory school—primary and junior high—followed by secondary school. Most students, after finishing the 7 years, would go to a trade school or into the workforce.

Roberts: *They would only be 12 years of age when finishing the required 7 years of primary and junior high.*

Savino: I started at age 5, but most students started at 6 or 7. Thus, the age varied from 12 to 15 before finishing mandatory school and starting to work.

Roberts: *Did schoolwork come easy for you, or did you have to study hard?*

Savino: It was so easy for me that I wasn't as good of a student as I could have been. I don't remember having any homework, and nevertheless I was the best student in my school. I know this because the best student in the whole school would be *abanderado* (would carry the flag) during the graduation ceremony. I graduated from school when I was 11. I then went to the secondary school to earn my bachelor's degree prior to university. The education in Argentina at the time was French based. The high school that I attended in Argentina is equivalent to college in the USA. If you were going into a specific field, you had to take several prerequisite courses in secondary school before you took the regular courses at the university.

Roberts: *You had to make up your mind by age 13 or so what you wanted to do if going to the university?*

Savino: Yes. The education system in Argentina was limited and rigid. There was almost no flexibility in what career you chose. The student had to follow science, business, law, or engineering; those were pretty much the only professional options. Virtually all students then were political, as they felt the need to change society. As the saying goes, "If you are not on the left when you are young, you have no heart. If you are on the left when you are grown up, you have no brains!" And that is what I have personally witnessed.

During the 1970s, Perón used this student movement to bring him from his exile in Spain. He then became president again of Argentina. My wife, Marta, and I were prompted to come to the USA by the political situation in Argentina. The leftist organization eventually became so powerful that it got armed and started openly confronting the official government, and that would precipitate what would later be called "The Dirty War." During this violent period, any individual who disagreed or opposed the government was abducted and tortured,

never seen or heard from again. It is sad now to realize that the Argentina culture I grew up in is gone for good. Prior to the Dirty War, the future of Argentina was uncertain and scary, so Marta and I decided to leave, just before the military took over the government, and the Dirty War officially took place from 1976 to 1983.

Roberts: *Was primary and secondary school private or public?*

Savino: Mine originally was a private school but later on became, like others, public. There wasn't a lot of difference between the two, because those pursuing a university education were relatively few. Although university was provided through the public education system, the majority of people went into the workforce. I attended the National College, a very fine place that was started by a British teacher, Mr. Newell.

At the preparatory secondary school, Mr. Newell had his students play soccer all the time because he was a very intense player himself. His team became known as "The Newell's Old Boys" and is still a soccer team today in one of the two clubs in Rosario. In fact, that is where Maradona and Messi used to play. The National College was housed in a wonderful old building surrounded by beautiful parks. The national memorial Monument "a la Bandera" is near the college.

Roberts: *Did you play soccer in school?*

Savino: I played some.

Roberts: *Did you play other sports?*

Savino: I tried playing other sports, but I was best at soccer. I was fast. That was one of my talents. I was faster than I was skilled.

Roberts: *When you were in college, how tall were you? How much did you weigh?*

Savino: I was probably 170 pounds and around 6 feet 2 inches.

Roberts: *When you were in preparatory school, did you have time off?*

Savino: Yes, 3 months. My family and I went on vacations; I played and prepared for the next school year.

Roberts: *Where would you go on vacation?*

Savino: We had two favorite places—one was the seaside and the other was the mountains. There are two major mountain ranges in Argentina; the one closest to Rosario is Sierra de Córdoba, which is not very tall and is comparable to the mountains in New Mexico. Córdoba is a province in central Argentina. Rosario is between Córdoba and Buenos Aires. To the west are the Andes Mountains. Our family always preferred the Sierra de Córdoba.

Roberts: *Did you travel much in Argentina?*

Savino: Yes, we used to travel by train, car, or riverboat. One of my favorite trips was with my father when he traveled to Buenos Aires to select the fabrics used for his company. I really enjoyed these trips with just the two of us. I realized on these trips that my father was a normal man and not the "father."

Roberts: *When you were old enough to go out on your own, was it safe to travel around?*

Savino: Very safe.

Roberts: *You didn't have to lock your house up?*

Savino: No. We were never afraid that someone would come into our home and rob us. Unfortunately, I was told that all that has changed now.

Roberts: *Was your family very religious?*

Savino: Religion was not instilled in me. I'm not a very religious person, unfortunately.

Roberts: *Did your family go to church or synagogue?*

Savino: I do not remember attending services as I was growing up.

Roberts: *Was there alcohol in your home?*

Savino: Everyone in Argentina drinks a glass of wine with the meal.

Roberts: *Did your father or mother smoke cigarettes?*

Savino: No.

Roberts: *Were there any teachers in your primary or secondary school or university who had a major effect on you?*

Savino: I remember one teacher, Mr. Lopez, who was a role model for honesty and respect. He made me think that you could not look at yourself in the mirror if you took advantage of others.

Roberts: *Those were principles that you grew up with?*

Savino: Yes. They became a part of who I am.

Roberts: *Did mainly your parents or the teachers or both propagate those principles?*

Savino: Both. Also, both instilled in me the desire to learn. In my house, my sisters and I had to study. Their motto in our home was "to be poor is understandable, but to be uneducated is to be lost in life."

Roberts: *Did both your parents push this? Or mainly your father or mother?*

Savino: Both did, but my mom was the one who spent more time with us, always instilling the desire to learn into her children.

Roberts: *Were there a lot of books around the house?*

Savino: Yes.

Roberts: *Did your mother and father read a lot?*

Savino: Yes.

Roberts: *Where were your parents from?*

Savino: My father's parents came from Italy and initially settled in Brazil, where my father was born. They moved to Argentina when he was 4. My mother's parents came from Spain and Italy, but they met in Brazil. Those who did not like Brazil moved to Argentina because it was considered a land of opportunity at that time, especially for those who could not make it to America.

Roberts: *How did your parents end up in Rosario?*

Savino: Because their parents liked Rosario best. It was a nice place to raise a family.

Roberts: *Your mother and father got along well? Was it a good marriage?*

Savino: Yes. They were together until my father died. That is one of the aspects of my parents I admired. Every marriage encounters its own share of obstacles, but Marta and I believe a couple should face these obstacles together. And I believe it is this attitude that has helped us remain married to each other for over 35 years. I certainly cannot imagine life without Marta (Figure 4).

Roberts: *Did you live at home while you were going to university?*

Savino: Yes.

Roberts: *During your last years at university, I gather that you rotated through the various subspecialties—surgery, pathology, medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry, etc. Did you focus fairly quickly on what you wanted to do, or did you have trouble picking a specialty?*

Savino: I liked all of the subspecialties, especially psychiatry, but I had the fantasy of becoming a scientist rather than a practitioner. My classmates spent more time on the wards working with the patients. A part of me admired their dedication to those patients. During my first year at medical school, I learned that the goal of medicine was to help the patients, not only to cure them. Unfortunately, I thought the laboratory was more exciting and challenging than the wards and consequently spent more time in the lab.

Roberts: *Doing research?*

Savino: Yes. There wasn't great demand for that in Argentina, but I loved it. I liked the knowledge base in all the specialties, but not enough to work with the patients.

Roberts: *What about surgery? You proved yourself in anatomy.*

Savino: That is true. My teachers in anatomy were mainly general surgeons. I even thought at the time that I was going to become a surgeon. But when I encountered Dr. Castagne-Decou, the histology chairman (who was a pathologist by profession), I became fascinated with histology and later histopathology. I was enthralled by his work and by the notion that research is a continuing learning experience.

Roberts: *By the time you finished medical school, had you decided what you wanted to do?*

Savino: Yes, I had this notion that I was going to be a scientist. I wanted to work in the laboratory. The political situation, however, became chaotic once Juan Perón returned from exile and became the president of Argentina. His wife, Isabel, was the vice president. When he died, she became the president. It was unfair to her because she was not prepared for that position. And as I mentioned earlier, things became very chaotic in the country.

Roberts: *This was what year?*

Savino: 1974 or 1975.

Roberts: *When did you finish medical school?*

Savino: 1972.

Roberts: *You were very young. You had been doing 2 years of pathology?*

Figure 4. For Marta's birthday, Daniel surprised her with a Papillon puppy, Bambolino. You will rarely see Marta without Bambolino, her "precious baby," in her arms.

Figure 5. With Dr. Julio Lagos in St. Louis.

Savino: Yes, but I worked predominantly in research.

Roberts: *Were you getting credit for pathology?*

Savino: Yes, but at this point, I was not planning to become a routine pathologist. Then when the political situation escalated to the point that it began interfering with my work at the university, Marta and I began thinking of leaving Argentina. Some doctors suggested emigrating to Europe, others to the USA. During this time period, I was working on Chagas disease, a problem in northern Argentina. A colleague I was working with on a project suddenly left the country, and I started thinking that this was time for us to leave. To be able to come to the USA, I had to take the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates examination that could show that I was eligible, and in preparation to come to the USA I had taken it.

Roberts: *That was when?*

Savino: 1973. By 1974–1975, when we finally decided to leave, I tried to get into a pathology residency program. My department chairman in Argentina helped me get situated in a program in Phoenix, Arizona. That first year I did 142 autopsies. It was an intense year. But I still had the dream of doing something more scientific, and Dr. Herbert Taylor, an expert in breast and gynecologic pathology at St. Louis University, gave me that opportunity.

In his department, I met Julio Lagos, another fantastic pathologist who was originally from Argentina (Figure 5). Although the son of a famous Argentine general, he was very humble but extremely sophisticated. His wife, Maria Luisa, was and is a wonderful lady who became a close friend of Marta. Dr. Lagos was a devout Christian. He was a true virtuoso of the microscope. He really knew and taught me how to study a slide. The residency program was effective because of his enthusiasm. I loved to spend time with him, and I rediscovered the beauty of histopathology. He

was the one who told me that I needed to do a fellowship with Juan Rosai. He said I was ready to move to bigger things. I told him I didn't think Rosai was better than him. (He knew Rosai well because they had been surgical pathology fellows together with Lauren Ackerman, a surgical pathology giant.)

Roberts: *You decided to leave St. Louis?*

Savino: Yes. I finished the 4-year residency program there and applied for a fellowship in Minneapolis, where Juan Rosai was located. His surgical pathology fellowship was fashioned after Ackerman's fellowship. He was there with Louis Dehner, who wrote the bible on pediatric surgical pathology. (His nickname was "Pepper" because of his personality.) I thought that I had seen excellent pathologists, but those two were in another league altogether.

At that time, if you wanted to be a first-class surgical pathologist, you wanted to be in Rosai and Dehner's fellowship program (Figure 6). The fellows rotated for 2 months each in different areas of surgical pathology. Probably the most demanding was what they called the "hot seat," where you had to study all the slides and prepare the provisional report that would be entered into the laboratory information system. Obviously, you had to be really sharp. Additionally, the hot-seat fellow did all the frozen sections with the fellow in the gross room rotation. Both would look at the slides, and if there was agreement, the diagnosis was given to the surgeons. If, however, there was disagreement, they would consult with Rosai or Dehner. We also did 4 months in consults and research with Rosai and Dehner. Glauco Frizzera, who ran hematopathology, had been a fellow of the famous pathologist Henry Rappaport. The kidney and electron microscopy pathologist was Richard Sibley, who had been a fellow of Spargo and is now at Stanford University. They were all extraordinary men. They knew so much and were so productive in doing research and publishing papers. It was a year of attrition for six fellows, but it was a year to remember. Every day at the "unknown" slide conference, either Rosai or Dehner would grill us not just on the morphologic features of the diagnosis but on the nature of the disease and the names and authors of articles where it had been best described. All the fellows

Figure 6. Daniel (fourth from right, first row) sitting with Dr. Juan Rosai (third from left, first row), Dr. Richard Sibley (third from left, back row), Dr. Glauco Frizzera (fourth from left, back row), Dr. Louis Dehner (fifth from left, back row), and the rest of the fellows and staff of the surgical pathology department in Minneapolis, 1979.

Figure 7. With Marta at a friend's wedding in St. Louis, 1976.

Figure 8. Marta pregnant with their first child. Daniel made the outfit Marta is wearing in this picture. She still has the dress.

read extensively to prevent the shame of not knowing. It was an intensely competitive year.

Minneapolis was cold, but it was a pretty city. My wife and I had a great time there. She was very supportive and a fully integrated companion. At night, she would photocopy articles I would be quizzed over by Rosai and Dehner, and she would quiz me over the material I read and accompany me in the hospital. (In those days, pathologists worked long hours—or at least the fellows did.)

Marta has always loved movies, and she was affiliated with the University Film Society located on the University of Minnesota campus. Some of the directors of the movies would come to the film showing and discuss the movies; some even came over afterwards to our humble apartment, where Marta would prepare the most exotic and delicious meals. Marta attended classes at Augsburg College and worked in the Department of Psychology first and then in the welfare department of Minneapolis. She has always been so full of life and passion.

Roberts: *What is her full name?*

Savino: Her name is Marta Naomi Tovani. We got married on June 27, 1974. My eldest sister, Delia, invited me to a party where I first saw Marta among a group and thought she was so beautiful. She had dark hair and a very fair skin complexion, and as I got closer I noticed she had a few little freckles on her

Figure 9. With Adria at her graduation from Akiba Academy of Dallas; she is currently a medical student in San Antonio, after having graduated with a double major (biology and psychology) from Brandeis University.

face, beautiful big eyes, a beautiful smile, and she was so full of life and enthusiasm! I knew I wanted to talk to her immediately and keep her forever. As I approached her, she recognized me. Apparently, our families ran in the same circles, and I knew her older brother. At first I thought I was too old for her, but she was very mature for her age. She was more mature than I was, and I was 8 years older! She was irresistible. She has an amazing sense of humor; is fiery, sassy, and passionate; and gave as much as she got. I still recall feeling shocked when this beautiful kid was mocking me, the sophisticated, older physician! She was quite popular and hard to get, but I got her.

Figure 10. Children Leo and Adria in 1985.

She was only 17 when we started talking about marriage. Her mother was concerned about it, especially about leaving the country, but she knew my family well and finally gave us her consent and blessing. So we got married in 1974 and left Argentina in 1975 (*Figure 7*). Marta is a people person and everybody who gets to know her well loves her. She continued her studies once we got to Phoenix and then in St. Louis and Minneapolis. All along she developed an interest in painting. After I finished my fellowship and got a junior staff position in Minneapolis, we decided to have children. We felt it was the right time. She was 24 (*Figure 8*).

Roberts: *Who was your first child?*

Savino: Adria Claudia Savino, born on February 1, 1982, during a winter blizzard (*Figure 9*).

Roberts: *And your second child?*

Figure 11. The kids' first trip to Argentina, here visiting their grandparents. Left to right: Esther, Marta's mother, holding Leo; Rosa, Daniel's mother; Marta, holding Adria; and Antonio, Daniel's father.

Savino: Leandro "Leo" Marcus Savino, born at Baylor on January 17, 1983 (*Figures 10 and 11*). He is one of the many babies delivered by Kemp Strother.

Roberts: *You stayed on the faculty at the University of Minnesota for a couple of years. Did you enjoy that?*

Savino: I did, but I also realized that I was not cut out for an academic career and preferred to do the work without the stress of having to publish. I enjoyed being with my wife and with our first child. Soon after, I was blessed with the news that we were expecting another "pancon." Rosai was leaving on a sabbatical, and I spoke with him about going into practice. Dr. Bill Kingsley, who was the director of surgical pathology under Dr. George Race at BUMC, had sent a letter to Rosai asking if he knew of any young promising pathologists. Rosai told me about it and said that BUMC was a great place to practice. I didn't know anything about BUMC. When I came to visit, I couldn't believe what a wonderful place it was. I met the pathologists at the time. Besides Dr. Race, there were Bill Kingsley, Weldon Tillery, Chuck Rietz, Norman Helgeson, and Doris Vendrell. Bill also took me downstairs to visit the electron microscopy department where Jim Martin, PhD, worked. (Some of the pioneer papers on the ultrastructure of tumors had come from that laboratory.)

Roberts: *Did you do electron microscopy yourself?*

Savino: I was supposed to come to BUMC to help with the kidneys and electron microscopy. I had the necessary experience. The position was ideal. I decided to come. Marta and our baby, Adria, came on the visit and liked it because it was warm. Marta liked the people in the department. We were a little concerned

Figure 12. With Marta playing doubles tennis, just one of his several hobbies, in 1978.

because we had a lot of friends in Minneapolis, but we thought if we wanted a change, there would not be another opportunity like this one. Bill Kingsley took me to the basement of the older hospital where they had slides on file from as far back as 1918. (I regret not having kept some of those slides that eventually were discarded.)

Coming to BUMC was an unbelievable opportunity. There was a residency program, so I could continue teaching. I started a weekly "unknown" conference trying to do what I had been taught. It was so much fun. Besides, there were so many well-known and exceptionally good clinical physicians! I had learned some breast pathology because Dr. Taylor in St. Louis was a well-known expert in the field (with Norris he had published many of the classic papers while at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology), so I had developed some modest knowledge and interest in that area. And BUMC was the most important place in town for the treatment of breast cancer. Among the surgeons, there was Dr. Zeck Lieberman, who had been a surgical oncology fellow at Washington University during the tenure of Lauren Ackerman in surgical pathology, and Dr. Harold Cheek, who was one of the deans of breast surgery and had one of the first breast surgery fellowships in the country (and ultimately trained amazing breast surgeons such as Sally Knox, Michael Grant, and Rachel Zent).

Roberts: *You came to BUMC when?*

Savino: In July 1982. We rented an apartment for a year or two and then bought a house in the Forest Hill area. Then we moved to North Dallas around Royal and the Dallas Tollway. (President Bush is one of our latest neighbors.) I liked BUMC because I realized from the very beginning that there was a great amount of material for pathology and that the clinicians were very sophisticated and knowledgeable. And they wanted to have the modern surgical pathology that I had learned in my fellowship. It was a perfect fit. I felt very comfortable with the entire BUMC pathology department. After Dr. Race retired, Dr. Weldon Tillery became the chairman and then when Dr. Tillery retired, Dr. Peter Dysert was the natural choice.

Figure 13. Playing the violin to accompany and motivate his two children.

Figure 14. With Leo at the Eiffel Tower, 2002.

Roberts: *When did you become chief of surgical pathology?*

Savino: When Dr. Kingsley retired. He had been the chief until around 1989.

Roberts: *Do you have hobbies?*

Savino: I used to play tennis (*Figure 12*), and I love listening to classical music, both instrumental and vocal. One of my greatest frustrations in life is not being able to make music myself.

Roberts: *Did you ever learn an instrument growing up?*

Savino: Yes, but to no avail. My last attempt was to study the violin to accompany and motivate Adria and Leo (*Figure 13*). It is a puzzle to me why I like music so much when I have no talent in the area.

Figure 15. In front of Chartres Cathedral in France.

Roberts: *What do you like to read?*

Savino: Anything. I started with the classics and then moved to history.

Roberts: *What do you and Marta do on the weekends?*

Savino: We used to invite friends over for dinner, watch a movie together, and then discuss it. We enjoy going places and visiting friends. We used to go to the opera and symphony with our two kids.

Roberts: *How much time do you take off a year?*

Savino: We used to go to Europe when the kids were growing up (*Figures 14 and 15*). We would take 2 to 3 weeks to visit museums and teach the kids the history behind the paintings or statues that we saw.

Roberts: *Daniel, this has been most interesting and enjoyable. Thank you.*

Savino: Thank you, Bill.