

Thanks for the chance to say a few words today. Im one of the neurosurgeons and Faizi and I started working together when he came to SLC 20 years ago. What a privilege it has been to work closely with such a talented, caring, thoughtful, skilled surgeon. We worked side by side on a regular basis and he became a close friend as I'm sure he was to many of you – he was that kind of guy.

It's great to see so many of his family here today and also so many of his work family. We spend so much time at work away from home so I hope we can tell you a bit about him as a doc/surgeon. Im also very happy that both of his families will have the chance to meet today.

There are so many things to say about him. He was a master surgeon. He and I were in many difficult situations together, and he was always thoughtful, meticulous and calm. I can remember one time when Doug Brockmeyer and I were planning to separate conjoined twins. We took one look at the babies and said “We're going to need Faizi.” He was the surgeon you wanted on your team for the complex problems. He was so caring and great with children and families. When he was going through his own treatment, families were always asking about him and wishing him well. He was always available – Saba, Zidan, Zaman, Im sure you know this. Whether he was on call or not he was there when we needed him. He'd think about things for a minute and say “lets do it” and then he'd always motion forward with his arm as if to say “onward”. He was loved and respected by everyone at work – when he was in the OR the team knew that the day would go well.

Well this is very sad and we're all grieving his loss in our own way. I thought I was coping pretty well but then one day I was in the clinic seeing a boy that we had treated together. The entire visit was done with a translator and the father was looking at the translator and not making any eye contact with me. Then at the end of the visit he put his hand up to the translator to indicate that he didn't need help. Then he looked directly at me and said “Im sorry your friend”. That really hit home for me.

A lot of you had most of your contact with Faizi in the OR, so a few comments about him out of the OR:

He was very well dressed! He always wore a suit to clinic ... and then one day he showed up with blue hair! You've probably seen that picture in the slideshow. It was for a fundraiser and of course he participated (but I don't think I saw Barbu with blue hair 😊)

He loved chocolate. We always had some in the clinic. He'd never ask, but if we brought some out he'd always have one.

He and I talked about hockey a lot – there aren't a ton of hockey fans here but he was one. Unfortunately, he was a New York Islanders fan which is a tough way to go through life.

Jay Riva-Cambrin is a surgeon that used to work here with Faizi – I talked to him recently and he was very saddened by Faizi's illness and passing and said Faizi is still the best colleague he's ever worked with.

Saba, I'm sure you know how important you and the boys were to him - whenever I asked him about something that would mean being away from home he'd say "Let me check with the home office", so we know who ran the show!. I hope you understand how much he meant to us and to the patients and families at work. We are so lucky to have been part of his life and I hope we can continue to be part of yours and help each other as we cope with his loss.