Could it ever be thought that there might be a time when Dr. Hülya Bilgin would ask us for an article to publish on the untimely loss of Arash? Fate.

After passing the exam of the anesthesiology residency, we met with Doctor Pirat for the first time when he came to Başkent Hospital in order to make acquaintance. During our conversation, he told us that his main purpose was to go to America and that he began the correspondence, but he said that the process could take up to six months and he would like to make use of that time in the Department of Anesthesiology at Başkent Hospital. He said he did not intend to be an anesthesiologist, but he knew that anesthesia was very important for every specialty. Despite the risk of receiving a negative answer, his honest speaking influenced me. I found out during our conversation that he was sent to Turkey from Iran, which is his home country, at the age of 13 for education after the Iranian revolution. It was very astonishing that he alone struggled for life and succeeded in a foreign country. The fact that he had graduated from Ankara University Faculty of Medicine with a degree, his comments indicating his brilliant intelligence and his knowledgeable state arouse in me a feeling of ‘I wish he stayed at us’. I said, ’OK, you can start.’ I read somewhere that some lonely stars that did not belong to any star cluster in the sky gave the most light. Arash reminded me of this. He started working at the Department of Anesthesiology at Başkent Hospital.

During the time he spent as a resident and an instructor, he was a guide to his friends and even to his preceptors with the successes in accessing knowledge, benefiting from knowledge, paving the way for researchers and relaying knowledge. He created friendship, trust and, more importantly, respect, not resentment in friends with his courage to tell the truth and with the criticisms that he made in a relaxed manner, in addition to his self-confidence and disciplined mind structure.

He attached great importance to Başkent Hospital, and wanted it to set an example in all aspects. Albeit for a short time, he influenced every one he worked with and every national and international meeting at which he made a speech.

Başkent Hospital also appreciated the value of Arash. The attention of the hospital administration, entire intensive care unit and the entire hospital was at the highest level especially during the course of his disease.

Despite everything, our Arash has fallen like a star in the sky, disappeared and gone away. Unavoidable fate.

How happy he is, about whom his colleagues would like to say nice things; how happy his wife Bahar is, and his sons Arda and Bora are. How happy his family is, which lives in Iran.

Gülnaz Arslan

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It’s been a short time since Arash died. I told my friends that I believed that he was in a better place after the troubles he had experienced in the last period. My aim in this is not to write praises for him as is always done after every lost person, but only to give an idea to those who do not know him. I am not someone who can express his feelings very well by playing with words. Even so, I know that everything written for a "loss" is wholly incomplete.
It is said that a modern human is the one who can adapt to the environment. In this sense, while arguing with each other, there are times when we do not share every thought in order to avoid weariness of bilateral relations. Differently, Arash never avoided saying the truth to anyone. Even to the people I’m sure are very precious to him. This characteristics of him sometimes caused him to look like an uncompromising and hard person. Interestingly enough, he was respected and loved more than all those who did not openly defend their ideas and who seemed to be “harmonious and sensitive” in order not to come into conflict with others. The reason for this was that he used to read a lot and was very hard working. Because the word “hardworking” is used very often, it remains insufficient to describe Arash. Arash had a very deep desire to read, learn and know. Everyone can be hardworking, but not everyone has the ability to put together all the information like puzzles and to synthesize, and to make accurate and quick decisions. Intensive care is a field where many departments need to collaborate. Arash had such a good basic knowledge that he could discuss with many doctors in their fields of expertise. For this reason, I saw many times that someone who knew him lost all the worries when he/she entrusted himself/herself or a relative to him, regarding a medical subject. For Arash, intensive care has become almost a part of him since the first time he took its responsibility. Because he was a person who worked without the concept of time, he used to spend his time, which he could spend with his friends and his family, for his patients. Although he looked like a workaholic, an asocial person in this consideration; on the contrary, Arash lived in the awareness of beautiful things that life offered him. Sometimes, I remember talking about a meal in a certain place for a long time, or talking about exploring a city in a country. He has always shown himself the same care which he has shown to his immediate surroundings, his patients and his work. From the ironing of his shirt to the colour matching of his belt and shoe.

Arash was a person who could touch the life of everyone around him. I know that the loss of every person is difficult. However, the scientific and human gap that the loss of Arash created was very different. It makes me happy to think like this; a person may have to settle in a country far away for a lot of reasons. In my opinion, Arash Pirat has settled in a place farther than we can ever see. But the influence and the lack that he created in a short life will always be felt by many people.

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Dr. Arash Pirat, a pioneer of intensive care in Turkey, passed away on December 20th, 2017, at the age of 46 after a prolonged illness.

Arash Pirat was born in the historic Persian city of Shiraz on 24th June 1971. Having come to Ankara at the young age of thirteen, Dr. Pirat graduated magna cum laude from Ankara University Faculty of Medicine in 1995. Following completion of his residency in Anesthesiology at Başkent University Faculty of Medicine, he chose intensive care for his future career. He then worked at Texas University Houston Medical Center for one year and was awarded his intensive care diploma in 2006, followed by European Diploma in Intensive Care in 2008. Dr. Pirat was appointed Professor in 2012 at Başkent University. He was the author of more than 50 publications, hundreds of proceedings and more than ten book chapters as well as his contributions as session chair or speaker in many international meetings.

Prof. Pirat was an active member of Turkish Society of Anesthesiology and Reanimation, Turkish Society of Intensive Care, European Society of Intensive Care Medicine, Society of Critical Care Medicine, Middle East Society of Organ Transplantation and American College of Surgeons. Prof. Pirat was a pioneer for organization of the first educational workshop, namely, “Başkent University Hemodynamics Workshop: Animal Laboratory” where for the first time in Turkey, advanced hemodynamic monitoring was demonstrated on hemorrhagic pig model to national and international attendees.

Prof. Pirat was the founder of the Department of Anesthesiology, Division of Critical Care at Başkent University, where he was appointed as the Head since 2014. Throughout the time he practiced at the ICU, he completely internalized the philosophy of our founding Rector of Başkent University, Prof. Mehmet Haberal: “A day is composed of 24 hrs and a week 7 days”. He was a determined, dynamic, meticulous and forever innovative visionary who contributed more than any other to the ICU - acknowledged by himself as his third child.

Intellect, hard work and courage defined Dr. Pirat throughout his academic career, enlightening the path of not only himself but many others. The Turkish Intensive Care Society has lost an outstanding member whose place would be impossible to replace. We will always remember him as a doctor who has fulfilled his obligations on any arena with utmost diligence and grace. Apart from all his aforementioned bright academic achievements and contributions, Dr. Pirat was a wonderful husband to Dr. Bahar Pirat, father
of two bright boys Arda and Bora, and a close friend for us all. Let us conclude by what can be regarded as his motto in life:

'Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail' (Ralph Waldo Emerson)