



Associação
Brasileira dos
Expostos ao
Amianto



Press Release

July 31, 2023

Inaugural Award for Outstanding Service to Asbestos Victims!

A coalition of activists represented by the International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS), the Brazilian Association of the Asbestos-Exposed (ABREA), the Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN) and the Indonesian Ban Asbestos Network (INA-BAN) today congratulate Dr. Ubiratan de Paula Santos, the recipient of the first IBAS Award for Outstanding Service to Asbestos Victims.

Dr. Ubiratan is a man of great compassion and empathy as well as a highly experienced pneumologist who has, in collaboration with ABREA members, revolutionized the treatment of asbestos victims by developing publicly-funded clinics and medical protocols which deliver state-of-the-art healthcare to asbestos-exposed workers.¹

Commenting on this recognition, ABREA President Eliezer João de Souza said:

“For decades, ABREA members have been traumatized by asbestos company doctors whose primary loyalties lie with their employers. Understandably, our members had little faith in the advice provided by these medical professionals. Brazilians who worked with asbestos are aware that historic toxic exposures could be a death sentence and live with the sword of Damocles hanging over their heads. All around them, they see former colleagues succumb to debilitating diseases and cancers. Even those without any symptoms at all, live with fear every day of their lives. In such a situation, open access to a trusted source of medical expertise is invaluable. This is what Dr. Ubiratan has facilitated for his patients at São Paulo’s renowned Heart Institute. ABREA members have total confidence in their treatment by Dr. Ubiratan and his team. This certainty gives them peace of mind and enables them and their families to face the future.”²

Seconding Eliezer’s comments, IBAS Coordinator Laurie Kazan-Allen said:

“Having watched as this new medical outreach program was developed by Dr. Ubiratan and his colleagues, we were thrilled to see it come to fruition with the treatment of the first two cohorts of ABREA members in June and July 2023. This program is the first of its kind and could not have come into existence without the total and personal involvement of Dr. Ubiratan. In consideration of this and in consultation with our global partners, it was decided to inaugurate a new award to manifest our very high regard for what has been achieved. Dr. Ubiratan has set a very high benchmark for any future recipients of this award.”

Embracing news of this award, Indonesian ban asbestos activist and artist Ajat Sudrajat expressed the immense respect of global asbestos campaigners for the work of Dr. Ubiratan in the image below. Thank you Ajat!

¹ Footage of the treatment of ABREA members at the Heart Institute in July 2023 can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/9BDaCN40-vw>

² Email from Eliezer João de Souza. July 28, 2023.

IBAS Award 2023 for Outstanding Service to Asbestos Victims



Ubiratan de Paula Santos

The award was presented to Dr. Ubiratan on July 29, 2023 by ABREA founding member José Carlos Manzini and ABREA Director and mesothelioma widow Gizelia Vicentin at an event held in the town hall of São Caetano do Sul City, São Paulo State.

Notes for Editors

1. For additional details, please email: Fernanda Giannasi (ABREA) at fer.giannasi@terra.com.br or Laurie Kazan-Allen (IBAS) at lkaz@btconnect.com

2. Information about the groups which issued this press release can be accessed at:

- International Ban Asbestos Secretariat (IBAS)
Website: <http://ibasecretariat.org>
- Associação Brasileira dos Expostos ao Amianto (ABREA) [Brazilian Association of the Asbestos Exposed]
Website: <http://www.abrea.org.br>
- Asian Ban Asbestos Network (ABAN)
Website: <http://anroev.org/aban>
- Indonesian Ban Asbestos Network (Ina-Ban)
Website: <http://inaban.org/>