

The importance of what we do

My family and I had always enjoyed excellent health.

The picture shows me with my beautiful wife Viviana and my lovely daughter Sophia around five years ago.

Six months after the pictures were taken, my life suddenly turned upside down.

After 10 days of extensive tests and scans of all sorts, Viv had a craniotomy where the neurosurgeon removed a tumor that proved to be glioblastoma multiforme grade IV, which back then sounded more like a mouthful of medical mumbo jumbo.

But what the doctors were really telling me was that my wife had a deadly form of brain cancer and her life expectancy was being redefined right then and there.

Viv battled her condition with admirable determination, she underwent months of chemo – and radiotherapy and was involved in several clinical trials.

This experience helped me understand firsthand the importance of what all actors in the healthcare field do: doctors, pharmaceutical industry, insurance plans, and yes, patient advocates.

Doctors who were previously perfect strangers, became the most important people as far as I was concerned.

To me, whatever they said was sacred – my wife's life depended on them.

Viv passed away seven months after her diagnosis.

To me, working in the healthcare sector has now a new meaning.

So many people put their hopes and their lives in our hands, as I did.

Our responsibility is truly awesome. Our job is incredibly important.

What we do, frankly, matters in ways that really nothing else can.

Turning 11 now, Sophia is accepting her loss with grace and maturity and she is actually determined to become a scientist.

When I ask her why, she tells me so she can find the cure of all illness so people like mommy can get better.

I have no doubt we are heading in that direction and I am very, very proud to be part of that journey. I hope you all realize the awesome responsibility that people deposit in your hands.

That is very humbling.

Daniel Coriat