

In Memoriam

Dr del Olmo has died. The finality of this news is not enough to close, with nothing further ado, the biography of Dr José Antonio del Olmo Bru (May 24, 1936 to October 24, 2007), his value obliging us to remember his professional career.

Formed as an internist in the school of Dr Pedro Pons and as a rheumatologist with Dr Rotés Querol, he never stopped employing his basic medical training with that of his specialty, making him the possessor of ample knowledge in both branches of medicine.

His professional career took place in Barcelona (Hospital Clínic and the Faculty of Medicine) and he was one of the founding physicians of the Escuela Oficial de Reumatología, which has formed numerous rheumatologists that today have their practices not only on a national level but also in Central and South America.

I have no doubt that those who had the privilege of being his pupils will not forget his agile and direct didactic manner, spiced by very personal sense of humor.

Gifted with great intelligence, irony, and a large knowledge base, he knew how to get not only the attention and interest of his students, but the respect and affection of his patients. As for us physicians who had the good fortune to “endure” him, we still admire his unsurpassable deductive reasoning,

which enabled him to reach a diagnosis in the most difficult and complicated cases. It is not a strange coincidence that rare or obscure cases were assigned to him, with the certainty that he would know how to solve them.

He never liked meetings, congresses, or official recognition, avoiding presumptuous or self-serving people, and had no tolerance for incompetence. He was very fond of the sea, an expert fisherman, and in his last years found himself absorbed by the “charm” of the internet.

Dr del Olmo was a free man, a good colleague, and above all, as far as I am concerned, one of the best clinical rheumatologists in the country. May you rest in peace Toni.



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