

Semblance of Dr. Luis Benítez Bribiesca

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Medical publishing activity is in mourning. A rigid and grievous sad mantle covers some of the most important biomedical and clinical journals of the Latin American realm. Unhappily, Dr. Luis Benítez Bribiesca, a distinguished colleague who devoted a significant part of his life as an investigator and academician to the diffusion of scientific knowledge, passed away on November 30, 2015.

For over three decades, I had the honorable privilege of closely collaborating with Dr. Benítez in this stimulating, though not always well understood, publishing work. I can affirm that his demise leaves an enormous void, very difficult to fill, particularly due to the unfortunate lack of interest by new generations on academic publishing activities.

Dr. Benítez completed his training as a physician at the Military Medical School in 1957. He specialized in pathology at the Mallory Institute in Boston, Massachusetts, and had a post-doctorate visiting scholarship in experimental pathology in Bonn, Germany, granted by the prestigious Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

He was head of the Histochemistry Section from the Scientific Research Department of the National Institute of Social Security (IMSS – *Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social*) from 1968 to 1978. Subsequently, he founded and directed the Oncologic Diseases Medical Research Unit from the Oncology Hospital of the IMSS National Medical Center from 1978 until the year 2000. He contributed to scientific literature with the

publication of over 250 articles in national and international journals. He directed 21 graduate theses, 11 for masters' degree, and 7 for doctorate. He was part of the group that founded National System of Researchers, from which he was a class III member.

Luis Benítez was editor of the *Gaceta Médica de México* from 1995 to 2005 and emeritus editor since 2006. He served as associate editor (1970-1978), member of the editorial board (1986-1991) and, finally, editor (1992-2015) of the *Archives of Medical Research* journal, published by the IMSS and Elsevier, a renowned publishing company with international impact. He was founder and emeritus editor of the *Patología* journal, official publication of the Mexican Association of Pathology and the Latin American Society of pathology. He participated for many years as a member of the *Cancerología* and *Science* journal's editorial committees, the latter from the Mexican Academy of Sciences.

During his brilliant trajectory, he received numerous national and international recognitions, among which the 2003 National Award of Medical Works granted by the National Academy of Medicine for his book *La formación de un científico* (The training of a scientist) stands out.

As a paradigm of our prolonged and enriching work relationship, always accompanied by intense intellectual interaction, I cannot neglect to highlight his constant activity as a promoter of national and

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international meetings of medical journals editorial groups both from our country and other latitudes, especially Latin America, many of them sponsored by the national Council for Science and Technology (CONACyT – *Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología*) These encounters were directed to improve editorial quality of the journals and to increase the publication of original works with more international significance.

We shall miss in these pages of the *Gaceta* his always punctual and accurate contributions.

Luis melded his scientific and academic work with a genuine vocation for culture. In many occasions, in the premises of our academy, within cultural activities programs, we could listen to his cultured tenor voice, always accompanied at the piano by recently deceased former president of the academy Emilio García Procel. Already afflicted by his terminal illness, he wanted to return, for the last time, to *La Serenísima*, a unique art setting where, as an evoking image, the Venetian gondoliers, amidst the gleam of crepuscular afterglow, allowed for him to listen, for last time, his beloved Italian opera arias.