

OBITUARY

Prof. Dr. Josep Maria Montserrat Viladiu
1922 - 2004

Our dear and now very much missed teacher Dr. Josep Maria Montserrat Viladiu passed away on the 4th of February 2004, aged 82. For all those who had the privilege of meeting him, his death comes as a great loss.

He got his degree in Medicine and General Surgery in 1946, being part of the first year that graduated following the Spanish Civil War. He joined the ENT Department at Sant Pau's Hospital in 1948, where he remained throughout his entire active professional life. He was Sub-Director of the ENT Service of Sant Pau and Head of the Rhinology Section from 1963 until he retired in 1992.

A very active and keen professional, in an era in which the political and financial circumstances were difficult, just after the Civil War. He travelled and studied widely at home and abroad. He built very solid relationships, both personal and professional, with many distinguished colleagues, who were also experts in rhinology, to mention only a few, such as G. Guillen, H. Masing, C. Migueis, G. Sul senti.

Dr. Montserrat collaborated on many occasions with the International Rhinologic Society, assisting at many courses in Leyden in the 60's. He was personally involved in the creation of the European Rhinologic Society, of which he was President from 1972 till 1975. He organized the Vth European Rhinologic Society Congress in Barcelona, held in June 1972.

In 1972, he won the first prize of the "Societat Catalana d'Otorinolaringologia i Patologia Cervicofacial" with the paper "Techniques and Approaches to Posterior Sinuses". He obtained his Doctorate in Medicine and Surgery with the thesis "Clinical Rhinomanometry" qualifying with "Excellence Cum Laude" in 1973. In Seville, in 1969, his Official Paper of the Spanish Society of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, at the VIIth National ENT Congress, with the title "Functional Rhinoplasty and its Anatomopathological Basis"; allowed many Spanish ENT colleagues, to become familiar with the surgical techniques for Septorhinoplasty, as described by M. Cottle. There is no doubt that M. Cottle was the great teacher that marked Montserrat's professional life, introducing him to the study and treatment of septopyramidal deformities and to the most current concepts of sinonasal physiology.

President of the "Societat Catalana d'Otorinolaringologia i Patologia Cervicofacial" in 1980, Member of Honour of many Latin-American Scientific Societies and regular participant in the European Rhinologic Society Congresses. In Copenhagen, in 1994, he was distinguished by been appointed Honorary Member of the European Rhinologic Society. And, in November 1998, at the end of his working life, he was awarded the Gold Medal of the "Sociedad Española de Otorinolaringología y Patología Cérvico Facial".

Excellent teacher, splendid surgeon, a patient and disciplined hard worker, with an excellent and enviable sense of humour that made him a well liked, admired and popular person amongst those who knew him.

Josep M. Fabra
Joan R. Montserrat

