

EDITORIAL

In memory of Dr Ramon Balius Juli (1928-2016), a sports physician and a humanist

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We tend to exalt the virtues and minimize the faults of those who have just expired. However, when it comes to Dr Balius, the medical community did not wait for him to pass away to acknowledge his merits and, above all, to recognize the way in which he had enhanced medicine, both in its scientific and artistic sides.

Dr Ramon Balius loved sport and thus he oriented his training towards the study of pathologies caused by physical activity and, together with a few friends, he fostered the implantation of sports medicine in Catalonia and helped it attain a high degree of excellence, at a point in which it could have seemed excessive to devote so much time and hopes to it.

Already in the sixties, through his publications, Dr Balius contributed new concepts to sports traumatology that are still totally in use nowadays. Many doctors who had the illu-

sion to devote ourselves to sports came to know his wisdom and learnt from him the rigour and the devotion to the aspects of the medical act that he most loved –medical history and physical exploration. His appearance and character were imposing at the beginning, but after a short while his affability, politeness and enthusiasm for his work surfaced. Dr Balius was an innovator, a forefather in the use of diagnose techniques and applied therapies to what he called ‘atlopathologies’, both in its non-invasive and surgical aspects. His reputation went on even after his retirement.

There was even another circumstance that made him different: his passion for arts. We all remember his wonderful articles in *APUNTS. MEDICINA DE L'ESPORT* magazine, in the section “*Quan l'esport es fa art*” [When sports turns into art], and his special collaboration with INEFC in researching literature and in designing pages and pages in which many artists gave expression to ideas and visions of sport that he collected avidly, perseveringly and enthusiastically.

Finally, I must recall Dr Balius' third passion: his family, to whom he passed on his enthusiasm. His children, some of who have devoted to medicine and sports science with the same fervour as his father, are the purest expression of his spirit.

There is no better way to remember Dr Balius than writing about him in the pages of *APUNTS*, a magazine that he managed to turn into a reality in 1964 and to which, throughout his life, devoted many hours with passionate affection.

One of the last doctors who enjoyed deeply his love for his family, science and humanism is now gone.

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