

## In Memoriam: Professor Francisco Hernández-Calvo (1931-2020)

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Francisco Hernández Calvo, Professor of Histology at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Murcia, and founder and editor of the Journal "Histology and Histopathology", passed away in 2020.

Through these words we wish to honour the memory of an eminent histologist, teacher and researcher, whose considerable efforts and wisdom contributed much to scientific communication in his field.

Hernández Calvo graduated in Medicine and Surgery from the Faculty of Medicine of the prestigious University of Salamanca, in 1957. During his studies he was a student intern to the Chair of Histology and Anatomical Pathology directed by Prof. Carrato Ibáñez. He then became Assistant Professor until 1960, when he moved to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Navarra as Assistant Professor of Histology and Pathological Anatomy. He completed his doctoral thesis under the supervision of Prof. Gonzalo Herranz. In 1970

he was appointed Associate Professor of Pathological Anatomy. During the challenging beginnings of the University of Navarra, he was vice dean under the direction of Prof. Ortiz de Landazuri.

From his time in Navarra, Hernández Calvo not only gained considerable experience, but also met his future wife Conchita Alfaro Baztán, in Pamplona.

In 1975 Hernández Calvo was appointed Professor of Histology and Embryology at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Murcia. There he continued his research and teaching, obtaining all the corresponding merits granted by the Spanish State in these fields. This long and fruitful activity is reflected in his fifty-year teaching career in medicine, postgraduate training, supervision of numerous doctoral theses, scientific publications, book collaborations and participation in research projects.

Hernández Calvo founded the Journal of Histology and Histopathology of which he was Editor-in-Chief. Despite limited financial resources, he succeeded in creating a means of scientific communication that today remains central to the Spanish Society of Histology and Tissue Engineering and, in short, to Spanish histology. Such considerable dedication has been compensated by the journal's international recognition in the most important indexes, with a respectable impact factor.

Following his retirement in 2001, Hernández Calvo was named Emeritus Professor and continued his research and teaching activity with the same intensity as before.

An excellent teacher, he was thus recognized and remembered by his students throughout the years. Deeply studious, highly cultured, scrupulous and critical, Hernández Calvo was open to dialogue, as well as being supportive and attentive. He was devoted to science, family, university and country. A patient listener, he showed respect and consideration for others, while clarifying facts and circumstances. He faced sadness and joy with equanimity, transmitting serenity through his tolerant, cordial and understanding nature. In short, his was an intelligence subordinate to reason, a truly human

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factor.

Hernández Calvo always advised to seek out the facts. Following his guidelines, we have focused on the facts he spoke of, gaining insights into his many-faceted life. The first necessarily involves Conchita, his wife and inseparable companion. Guided by affection, intelligence and tenacity rooted in good sense, they raised a family that includes professors of medicine of international renown. The second was his love of teaching and research work. The third highlights his capacity as an opinion maker on important issues, by example and

word. The fourth reflects his service to the society in which he lived, through his guidance, leadership and management from the largest to the smallest tasks and details. And finally his bonhomie in the pursuit of excellence and good practice.

We are honoured to participate in this tribute to Professor Hernández Calvo and wish to express our gratitude for his work as an esteemed histologist. Francisco Hernández Calvo was a dedicated mentor, the best of teachers and a cherished friend; in short, an outstanding person.