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Editorial

Daher Elias Cutait: the centennial of his birth (september 28, 2013)

Daher Elias Cutait: centenário de nascimento (28 de setembro de 2013)

Our teacher and friend, Professor Daher Cutait, an extraordinary human figure, physician by vocation, entered the School of Medicine of the University of São Paulo in 1933 at 19 years of age. He was the disciple of Benedito Montenegro, attending as an intern, during his sixth year of Medical School at the Quarta Cirurgia de Homens da Santa Casa de Misericórdia de São Paulo, to which he was hired in 1940. Along with his mentor, he went to the School of Medicine of the University of São Paulo (USP) in 1944, where he led the Coloproctology Service of Hospital das Clínicas, from 1947 to 1983.

He completed his professional training abroad, under the guidance of one of the world's greatest experts in coloproctology, Professor Frederick Collier from Michigan in the United States.

He dedicated his entire life to the large and famous Brazilian philanthropic institution: the Hospital Sírio-Libanês, in which his role was decisive for its relevance and scientific advancement.

His community life was fruitful, starting with his participation in the founding of the Brazilian Society of Coloproctology (SBCP), in 1945 when was elected to the board as secretary. He was its national president in 1957 and 1986, when he also presided the World Congress of Gastroenterology (also World Congress of Coloproctology), held at the city of São Paulo. He attended every national SBCP congress, since the first one, held in 1946, until the end of his days, never having missed one.

He was chairman of the Third Congress of the International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ISUCRS), held in São Paulo in 1973.

He also founded, in 1957, the Latin American Association of Coloproctology (ALACP), of which he was the first president and organized its first conference in São Paulo in 1960, where more than 1000 coloproctologists from all the Americas took part.

He was president of the Latin American Federation of Surgery, from 1969 to 1973, president of São Paulo's chapter of "American College of Surgeons" in 1976 and national president of the Brazilian College of Surgeons (CBC) from 1979 to 1981.

For all these reasons

To write that Professor Daher was always innovative, a pioneer, having designed several surgical techniques, is not enough... To talk about his qualities as a pioneer in the studies of the Brazilian coloproctology, a wise teacher, counselor at all times, responsible for the academic training of many physicians in the art of surgery and the pride of our specialty... To identify his enthusiasm for life, for medicine and for the goals he embraced, influencing those who had the pleasure to enjoy his company as an impressive example... To show that he was always an upright professional, rigorous by principle, honest by character and sincere by vocation, being a lesson in life... To talk about the precepts that guided his precious life, the teaching of medicine, specially surgery, based on the four pillars of wisdom in his doctor-patient relationship, which are: seriousness, experience, evidence and results, it is right and proper to remember... To show his family structure, as demonstrated by his companionship and complicity with his wife, the dearest Mrs. Yvonne Cutait and their children, of exemplary upbringing.

In his own words:

"In my philosophy of life, I am what I am, I am what I did. When I look back, I see that I have had the privilege to fight for the causes that I believed in, and managed to achieve much of what I sought. I can say that I was greatly blessed, because whenever I listen to my own heart, I find happiness and peace, coupled to the feeling of professional and personal fulfillment."

For all this,

Having had the privilege of meeting Professor Cutait Daher is above all to have experienced his example in our lives: "The most important is not the departure, nor the arrival, but the journey."

Flávio A. Quilici

Departament of Gastroenterology and Digestive Surgery,
Pontifícia Universidade Católica (PUC) de Campinas
Sociedade de Gastroenterologia de São Paulo
Sociedade Brasileira de Coloproctologia
Sociedade Brasileira de Endoscopia Digestiva

*Corresponding author.

E-mail: quilici@terra.com.br (F.A. Quilici)

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