

## *In memoriam* Ángel Bellet i Cubells

En el recordatorio que recogí el día de su funeral rezaban unas breves y bellas palabras de su hijo Xavier que lo definían perfectamente: «Mi padre era quien recogía una rama de tomillo, quien sabía escuchar el viento y quien curaba bocas imposibles. Ahora descansa en paz, lejos de todas las batallas, en el cielo de los bienaventurados».

Desde que me sedujo para formar parte de la familia odontopediátrica en el año 1981 he recibido ayuda y consejo de esa persona sabia y ecuánime que me ha permitido formar parte de sus proyectos odontológicos y ha participado en los míos.

Ángel era ese profesional, era esa persona a la que todos conocimos, admiramos, amamos, respetamos y con quien colaboramos. Maestro y guía para muchos; optimista e incansable tenía siempre soluciones para todo. Alguien especial que conectaba con todas las generaciones, con todos los niveles sociales y con cualquier persona con una mínima inquietud por algo.

En los congresos, cursos y convenciones a los que asistía, siempre era el primero en llegar y el último en partir. Partícipe en lo social, en lo científico y en lo lúdico, siempre estaba entre los más representativos.

Tenía profesionales amigos en todos los países del mundo y aprovechaba cualquier oportunidad para, con ellos, conocer la cultura y la historia del lugar y a su vez, cuando ellos visitaban nuestro país era él también el anfitrión perfecto. Gracias a esta especial empatía, Ángel era siempre el punto de referencia para la organización científica de casi todos los congresos de la SEOP.

A pesar de su consulta multidisciplinar de éxito dedicó su esfuerzo científico a los más débiles y descuidados en aquel momento, los niños. Esta especial inquietud le llevó a organizar eventos nacionales e internacionales de esta especialidad, a formar parte de juntas y comités españoles, europeos e iberoamericanos y a ser uno de los fundadores de la Sociedad Española de Odontopediátrica, de la que ocupó diversos cargos: presidente durante muchos años, archivero de los documentos históricos, delegado para las relaciones internacionales y siempre presente y eficaz en cualquier comi-

sión y misión que se le encomendara. Fue por ello que lo propuse a la asamblea general, durante mi mandato, como miembro de honor, mérito que se le otorgó por unanimidad.

Avanzado en su tiempo, fanático de la prevención, participó activamente en el plan de educación y fluorización mediante colutorios, de escolares, que se desarrolló en Cataluña en los años ochenta y fruto de esa pasión fue crear un instituto (IOPSA) destinado exclusivamente a este menester. Anterior a esto también dio conferencias sobre ergonomía dental, disciplina desconocida por los dentistas españoles de los años setenta y aunque la tecnología evoluciona de forma imparable, los conceptos fundamentales que el proponía para mantener la integridad de la espalda del profesional de la odontoestomatología han variado bien poco en la actualidad. Puso su iconografía generosamente a mi disposición cuando le comenté que impartía esta asignatura en la U.B., de la que muchas de las imágenes son aún vigentes.

Interesado y conocedor de la pintura catalana, este año echaremos de menos la puntual felicitación de navidad escrita de su puño y letra, ilustrada con uno de los cuadros de su colección particular.

Siempre con algo que contar, siempre ameno, echaremos también de menos sus comentarios sobre pájaros y plantas, sobre culturas remotas, sobre monumentos antiguos y modernos, música o arquitectura u odontología lógica o de rabiosa actualidad. Y su presencia.

La enfermedad, activa y discreta como él. Eficaz. Aliada. No le dejó sufrir. Le mantuvo sagaz y engañado hasta el último aliento.

No puedo decir: «Descansa en paz». Sé que no le gustaría que le apartaran de la actividad. Por eso creo que lo mejor es pedirle que desde el más allá, entre los demás ángeles, siga velando por su familia, por la SEOP y por nosotros. Lo hará bien.

**X. Costa Codina**

*Ex presidente de la SEOP*

In the memorial card that I kept the day of his funeral there were a few brief but beautiful words by his son Xavier that defined him perfectly: «My father was the one who picked a sprig of thyme, who was able to listen to the wind and who was able to cure impossible mouths. He now rests in peace, far from all battles, with heaven's blessed».

From 1981, during which I was persuaded to join the pediatric dentistry family, I have received help and advice from this wise and equable man, which enabled me to form part of his dental projects while he also participated in mine.

Ángel was a person and a professional who we were all able to get to know and admire, love and respect, and with whom we were all able to work with. He was a master and a guide for many; a tireless optimist who always had the answer for everything. He was someone special who connected with every generation, with all social levels and with anyone with the slightest concern about something.

In the congresses, courses and conventions he attended, he was always the first to arrive and the last to leave. He participated in the social, scientific and recreational aspects and he was always among those who were most representative.

He had friends from the profession all over the world and he made the most of whatever opportunity he had to learn about their culture and their history, and when they came to our country he was also the perfect host. In addition to this special empathy, Ángel was also a point of reference for the scientific side of nearly all the SEOP congresses.

In spite of having a successful multidisciplinary practice, his scientific efforts were directed towards the weak and uncared for at the time, towards children. This special concern led him to organize national and international events of this speciality, to join Spanish, European and Ibero-American boards and committees and he was one of the founders of the Spanish Society of Pediatric Dentistry, holding many posts. He was president for many years, in charge of the historical archives, delegate for international relations and he was always around being efficient in any commission or mission

given to him. It was for this reason that during my mandate I proposed he should be made a member of honor at the general assembly, which was unanimously approved.

Advanced for his time, a fanatic of prevention, he participated actively in the education plan and fluoridization by means of mouth rinses of school children that was developed in Cataluña in the 80's, and as a result of this passion the IOPSA institute was developed exclusively for this task. Before this he also gave conferences on ergonomics in dentistry, an unknown discipline for Spanish dentists of the sixties, and although technology evolves in an unstoppable fashion, the fundamental concepts that he proposed for maintaining the integrity of the dentist's back have varied little in current times. He very generously gave me his iconography when I mentioned I was lecturing on this in the U. B. and many of the images are still relevant.

He was interested, and a great expert on Catalan art, and this year we will miss his timely Christmas card written in his own hand, and illustrated with one of the pictures in his own collection.

He always had something to say and he was always affable. We will also miss his remarks on birds and plants, on remote cultures, on ancient and modern monuments, music or architecture or very much up to date logical dentistry; and his presence.

The disease that afflicted him was as active and discrete as he was. It was effective and an ally. He was not allowed to suffer. He was allowed to be wise but he was deceived until his last breath.

I am unable to say «Rest in Peace» as I know he would not like to be separated from his activity. I think it is better to ask him from the heavens and from among the angels, to look after his family, the SEOP and all of us. He will certainly do a good job.

**X. Costa Codina**

*Ex presidente de la SEOP*