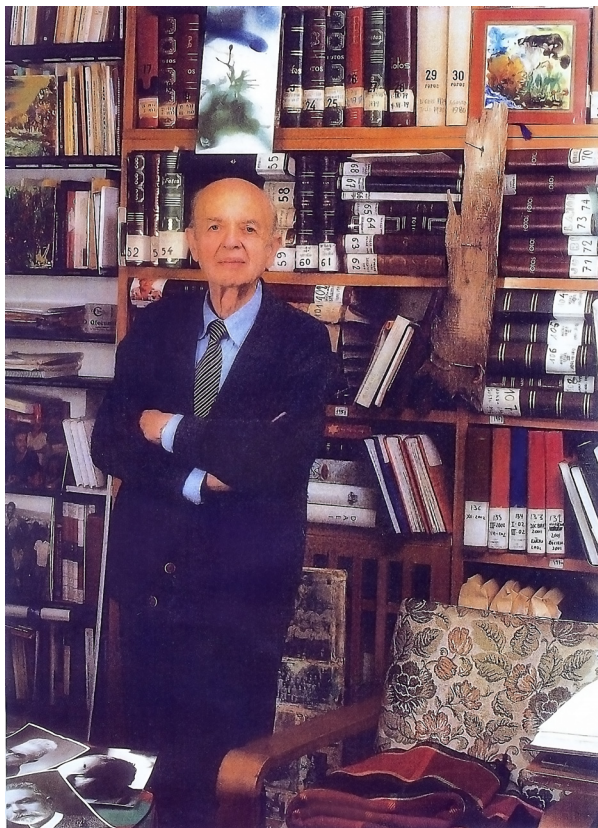


IN MEMORIAM



Miguel Guirao (1924-2010)

Nervous System, but he also explored other systems and organs from the developmental and morphological point of view, supervising 56 PhD theses throughout his extensive academic life and receiving numerous honorary degrees, appointments, prizes and awards.

The exquisite personality of Miguel Guirao-Pérez, father of seven children, was rich and complex and exceeded in grandeur that of his role as an eminent teacher and researcher. For this reason, don Miguel, as respectfully and affectionately we normally call him, was a source of attraction and inspiration for all of us who had the privilege of being his disciples. His keen artistic sense found expression principally in photography, drawing and painting; likewise, his sense of the history and traditions found an outlet in the organization of various science and medical museums. His social consciousness was not limited to his active participation in politics (he became a member of the National Parliament at the time of the transition to democracy in Spain), but also included the organization of university courses for senior citizens and a variety of charitable actions including the foundation of a number of Non-Governmental Organizations, one of which has an international dimension. In summary, Professor Miguel Guirao was a great scientist, an excellent teacher, an artist and a man of exemplary good will.

Requiescat in pace

On 23rd March last, in the city of Granada (Spain), Professor Miguel Guirao-Pérez passed away at the age of 85. He founded this journal in 1960 under the title of *Anales del Desarrollo* (Annals of Development), one of the few periodic publications in the world devoted exclusively to Developmental Biology at that time and oriented mainly to descriptive and experimental Embryology and Teratology. This was an era in which the only journals which existed in this field were the pioneering German journal *Roux's Archive of Developmental Biology* (founded as *Archiv für Entwicklungsmechanik der Organismen* by Wilhem Roux in 1894), the Japanese journal *Embryologia* (now known as *Development, Growth & Differentiation*) founded in 1950, the British *Journal of Embryology and Experimental Morphology* (now *Development*) founded in 1953 and the American journal *Developmental Biology* established in 1959.

Miguel Guirao-Pérez was born on December 20, 1924, being the third child of five of Miguel Guirao-Gea (1886-1977), Professor of Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine of the old University of Granada, Spain (founded in 1531) and decided to follow in the footsteps of his father by studying Medicine in the same Faculty from 1942 to 1949. His PhD thesis Supervisor was the prestigious Spanish neuro-anatomist Professor José Escolar-García (1913-1998), who started the first era of this journal as *Anales de Anatomía* (Annals of Anatomy) between 1952 and 1959. His thesis dissertation was defended at the Central University of Madrid, the only place in which it was possible to do so in Spain at that time. After that, he held a number of post-doctoral positions and visited several well-known European and American laboratories in Belgium (with Pierre Lacroix in Louvain and Albert Dalcq in Brussels), Sweden (with D.E. Holmdahl in Uppsala and Ture Petrén in Stockholm), England (with George M. Wyburn in London), France (with André Delmas in Paris) and in the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA), obtaining afterwards the prestigious Chair of Anatomy of the University of Valladolid (the first one of Spain, founded in 1550) and later at his hometown Granada, succeeding his father there. His main scientific contributions were in the field of the development, differentiation and teratology of the Central

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