



Prof. José Terencio de las Aguas

1927 – 2016



The renowned Spanish dermatologist Prof. Terencio de las Aguas has passed away last November 30, 2016, at age 89, leaving a great legacy in this field of medicine and, specifically, in the field of leprosy. Prof. de las Agua was a legendary figure of

dermatology and key person in the struggles against leprosy. He was the only child of a famous Valencian sculptor: José Terencio Farré.

His professional career has been prolific and outstanding: Academician of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Valencia, expert in Leprosy by the World Health Organization, Counselor of the International Leprosy Association (ILA), President of the Leprosy Society of the Endemic Countries, Emeritus Academic of the Spanish Academy of Dermatology and Venereology and Teacher of Ibero-Latin American Dermatology (CILAD). Prof. de las Aguas was a key person in the modernization and in the scientific and teaching activities of the worldly known Sanatorio Fontilles where he was appointed medical director in 1968 and served in this condition until 1999. His leadership and knowledge led him to be considered one of the most important dermato-leprologists in the world. A tireless worker, he often said at the end of his lectures: "I study and work for the sick with leprosy in order to eradicate the disease, trying to repair the injustice thousands of years that have suffered these patients, throughout history."

Besides a variety of papers published in several specialized journals, Prof. de las Aguas has authored two books of leprology considered as basic in all Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries: 'Lessons of Leprology' and 'Leprosy. Past, present and future'. Another relevant activity was his participation as editor of *Revista de Leprology*, an international journal on leprosy published to the present by Fontilles.

In 1973 he was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Lazarus and in 1996 he was appointed member of the Royal Academy of Medicine of the Valencian Community. According to his close friend and colleague Dr. Jose Mascaró, Prof. de las Aguas was a person well known and esteemed, in large part, for his openness to the Ibero-Latin American dermatologists of which some today have become masters passing through Fontilles under his leadership.

Prof. de las Aguas was a very dynamic member of the International Leprosy Association. He actively participated in all the ILA congress during his professional life. His career and devotion to the treatment of leprosy patients and to the study of leprosy is to be remembered as a legacy to the future generations.

Marcos Virmond

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