

## *In memoriam*

### **Donato Alarcón-Segovia**

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On December 21st, 2004 one of the giants in the world of rheumatology passed away. Donato Alarcón-Segovia was born in 1935, received his MD in 1959 from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and completed his residency training first in Mexico and then at the Mayo Clinic. He was appointed Professor of Medicine at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in 1975, and Professor of Immunology in 1982. Donato served as chairman of the Department of Immunology and Rheumatology at the Instituto Nacional de la Nutrición Salvador Zubirán in Mexico City, and as General Director of the institute from 1992 until 2002.

One of the most widely cited scientists in rheumatology, his research contributed enormously to our understanding of the clinical and immunological aspects of systemic autoimmune diseases, in particular systemic lupus erythematosus and the antiphospholipid syndrome. A recognized expert of international fame, he served on the editorial boards of the most important journals – international and national – in the fields of rheumatology and clinical immunology, including *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology*, and was a member of various scientific societies around the globe. Among the many prestigious awards which he received, in 2000 he was elected a Master of the American College of Rheumatology. However, Donato was not only a dedicated scientist whose enthusiasm and inspiration we will all greatly miss. He was also a personal friend whose kindness, warmth and great



Donato Alarcón-Segovia  
1935-2004

charm we will never forget. In this sad moment *Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology* would like to extend its deepest sympathies to his family and collaborators.

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## **Book reviews**

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### **ABC of Rheumatology, 3rd edition**

Editor: M.L. Snaith  
BMJ Publishing Group Ltd., pp. 126, illustrated.  
ISBN 0 7279 1688 2

The *ABC of Rheumatology* (3rd edition) presents a good, practical and concise introduction to the diagnosis and management of the principal rheumatic disorders.

The book is divided into 22 chapters, of which the first 6 analyze regional pain syndromes, the following 13 examine the most common rheumatic diseases (including fibromyalgia, osteoarthritis, gout, osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, the spondyloarthropathies, polymyalgia rheumatica, systemic lupus erythematosus, Raynaud's phenomenon, scleroderma and vasculitis), and the last 3 cover miscellaneous

topics such as laboratory tests, the team approach to the care of patients, and the epidemiology of rheumatic disorders.

Although the discussion of the etiopathogenesis of the separate disorders could be more thorough, this textbook does offer a succinct overview of the subject and one of its principal strengths is the large number of illustrations and figures that accompany the text. These are particularly useful as they show many of the important clinical signs of the various rheumatic disorders and thus offer a useful tool for medical students and health professionals who treat patients with rheumatic diseases.

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