



INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL REVIEW ON DOWN'S SYNDROME

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EDITORIAL



Dr. Pieschel and the Foundation

Dr. Pieschel was a pioneer in the research and improvement of the health of people with Down's syndrome, dedicating his life to publications and advice that have had an international influence.

Sig was a constant personal friend of mine. We met at numerous conferences: Rome, United States, etc. We always maintained a close and continued correspondence. The loss of his son had a devastating effect on him and I believed that he never got over it.

I feel a very deep sense of loss of this irreplaceable friend. I will always remember him.

All of us who have a child with Down's syndrome need help. Sig was a special support for me, and I would like to think that I was also a little for him.

Thank You Sig for all you have given us. Rest in Peace.

Montserrat Trueta

We have lost a great friend

On the 2nd of September 2013, we lost someone who has fought more for people with Down's syndrome, their health and their social integration, Dr. Siegfried M. Pieschel.

Dr. Pieschel was born in 1931 in Silesia, Germany, now part of Poland. His family were admitted into Germany as

refugees, where he had to work in several positions, and graduated in Medicine in Dusseldorf in 1960. He emigrated to the USA, and was a medical intern in New Jersey, where he met his wife, Eny Vergara, with whom he had 4 children, one of them with Down's syndrome. He specialised in Paediatrics and Biomedical Genetics in Harvard and Montreal Universities. In 1965 he returned to Harvard as Professor of Paediatrics, working mainly on mental handicaps due to in-born errors of metabolism, and Down's syndrome, especially after his son Chris was born with this syndrome. He was also a specialist in Developmental Psychology and Jurisprudence.

In 1975 he was appointed as Director of the Child Development Center of Rhode Island Hospital, where he practiced in Paediatrics until his retirement in January 2013. Dr. Pieschel explained and defended the world of individuals with Down's syndrome with Pope John Paul II and Queen Sofia of Spain. He was also a member of the National Down Syndrome Congress, the National Down Syndrome Society, and the Association for Retarded Citizens. In his hospital he attended to thousands of individuals with Down's syndrome, and without a doubt he had the most clinical histories of Down's syndrome in the USA.

Dr. Pieschel was a person who loved sport, had run 38 marathons, climbed Kilimanjaro, reached the Mt. Everest base camp, and was also a black belt in Tae Kwan Do.

His extensive scientific activity can be found in the 15 books and more than 200 articles written by him. He also took part in hundreds of scientific conferences and meetings all over the world. He was an active contributor in the Catalan Down's Syndrome Foundation, participating in many of the conferences that the Foundation has organised over the past 30 years. He was currently a consultant for our International Medical Journal.

His humanity and closeness were, without a doubt, his most outstanding qualities, always ready to help all those who asked for it, and always supporting individuals with Down's syndrome. We have lost a great person, and for us, one of our best friends. Dr. Pieschel has gone, but his work will still be valid for many years, "the man passes away, his deeds remain".

Dr. Agustí Serés