

## **Professor David-Ferreira**

Dear Professor, it is with great emotion that I write to you at this very sad occasion. I want to leave you my joy, the happiness of having met you at the beginning of my professional activity and to tell you how that has influenced the way I am today as a professional. Discreetly and with your words of encouragement, you helped me find my way...

I met you, Professor, back in 1996, when you were the Director of the Institute of Normal Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, and I had just arrived at the Institute. I was very eager to work, and felt the fears and wishes typical of a girl when starting a professional activity. It all started at that non longer operational library, a dark locked room with piled up books and where the professor had seen a light, the light of knowledge, and the light of a space that I have come to call "mine".

I remember so well how your eyes sparkled when you talked about this project, your project, to modernize the Institute of Anatomy, specifically the remodeling of the Morphological Sciences Centre. The pleasure and privilege I had to work directly with you and be part of that team was immense, and you, Professor, knew it. I have never forgotten the time you spent explaining how everything in that library should be, nor your teachings and advice. Your friendliness, simplicity, and demanding attitude are a reference to me. You are a person who, despite your status and academic degree, has always worked at my side as equals, and you made me feel very special.

Your life will always stay with me, and I will always remember the last words we exchanged.

You are one of those people who are unforgettable, very good, a human being who cares not only about well being but essentially about the message of hope and knowledge that you pass on to everyone you meet. They are all your students, and you are the Professor to all of them. "My" Professor David Ferreira.

Thank you Professor!!!

Ana Cristina Marques Cardoso de Moura Mota.