

Professor José David Ferreira was an outstanding personality of the Faculty of Medicine. He was a researcher, a scientist, and a remarkable teacher who knew how to gain the attention of his students and motivate them, opening the horizons of scientific creation and including it in his teaching. His path was not clear-cut, as usual at the time.

He was the last and youngest disciple of Master Augusto Celestino da Costa, with whom he began his academic path in histology. He then headed to France, where he joined a movement of renewed cell research enabled by the new electron microscopy technology.

Back in Portugal, he centred his activity at the Gulbenkian Institute of Science, where he directed a scientific centre sought by young people who aspired to a scientific career and who embarked on that adventure thanks to him. After 1974, he resumed his position as a faculty Professor, and gave a remarkable and permanent boost to science.

His Histology Institute at the Faculty produced prominent scientists who set up research units that were decisive for the scientific development of the Faculty of Medicine and became a reference in the country and abroad.

He was an unquestionable and tolerant leader, so those who were closer to him tell me. He was a Professor who paid attention to the life of the Faculty, and his action was essential for strengthening science, and for the setting up of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, which brought together the most productive scientific centres and that he encouraged, with interest, albeit informal and seemingly distant.

I knew David Ferreira quite well. He was from my part of the country, and when I was young I was a friend of his deceased brother, who spoke with enthusiasm and admiration of his scientific path abroad, which aroused my interest and respect. I was never his student, but I met him when I worked at the Gulbenkian Institute in Oeiras, and as lecturer at the Faculty, upon my return from the United Kingdom. I recall his interest in my work, his careful advice and the trusting serenity with which he clarified matters and helped in the usual difficulties.

He was a Master, an exemplary citizen, a Vice-Rector committed to the progress of the University and a Man of character. He has joined the gallery of personalities for whom Time casts light on the actions they have undertaken. For which reason, he will be remembered by future generations, disciples, student, and colleagues.

A few months ago, the students dedicated him their Cultural Soirée, a sincere tribute of the young people who look up to him as an example and tutelary figure, as a scientific, intellectual and moral **reference**. It was a rewarding and touching occasion. I think he was impressed, he seemed very happy, despite the illness that undermined him and caused him untold suffering.

José David Ferreira was a Master, a Scientist who knew how to bring Science into Education and win over the enthusiasm of his students. He was a Friend who I will always remember with admiration, friendship, and nostalgia.