



# INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL REVIEW ON DOWN'S SYNDROME

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### *Dear Editor*

I have just read your Editorial on the figure, Siegfried M. Pueschel in the latest issue of the esteemed DS journal, and I must say it moved me deeply.

He was certainly one the most steady guides in my coordination tasks in the Centro Médico Down (CMD) from 1987 to 1989. His publications<sup>1-5</sup> and recommendations were a source of learning and inspiration of how things had to be done to help individuals with Down's syndrome (DS), and the fruit was to be included in the CMD Health Programme. I also must mention that his clinical works on individuals with DS have been study material for all CMD paediatricians in their personal preparation work to assume the responsibility of caring for children with DS throughout their paediatric stage, and for the specialists who attended to them as adults.

I have a special memory of the International Symposium on DS that was held in Rome at the end of May 1989, where, along with my wife, we had the great opportunity to meet him, in the company of the esteemed Professor Jerome Lejeune and other scientists and people actively involved in the defence of life, like John Paul II, who received all of us participants in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican.

Siegfried always had a pleasant smile, as can be seen in the photograph that you had chosen in the Editorial, which invited confidence and to share concerns and preoccupations on subjects related to individuals with DS and their family environment.

And to conclude my personal memory, I would like to highlight his constant desire to help anyone who asked him for advice, which was answered with a response full of simplicity and humility that enlarged his small stature even more.

You were absolutely right to dedicate that page of the Journal to him. The wording of its contents gave great credit to him as a person.

As they say at the end "the man dies but his deeds remain". In his case, all his deeds are a reflection of his good character.

### References

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3. Cronk C, Crocker AC, Pueschel SM, Shea AM, Zackai E, Pickens G, et al. Growth Charts for Children with Down Syndrome - 1 Month to 18 Years of Age. *Pediatrics*. 1988;81:102-10.
4. Pueschel SM, Scola PS. Parents perception of social and sexual functions in adolescents with Down's-syndrome. *J Ment Defic Res*. 1988;32:215-20.
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