

Memorial—Jose Bonmati



Jose Bonmati, 1921–2012

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On January 9, 2012, one of radiology's great gentlemen, Jose "Pepe" Bonmati, died at his home in Madrid. He was 90 years old. Like hundreds of others in my field, here and around the world, I have unique and wonderful memories of this remarkable man.

He was born and raised in Hondon de las Nieves, a small village in the countryside near Alicante. After the Spanish Civil War, he moved to Madrid where he furthered his education, graduating with an MD degree from the Universidad Complutense in 1945. He entered the Spanish Air Force that same year and obtained the diploma of radiology from the air force in 1949.

In 1952, he was awarded a scholarship from the Spanish government to go to the United States for further training in radiology. He began a residency in diagnostic radiology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, but after his first year he was recalled to Spain.

On returning to Spain he worked at the Policlinic AF Hospital in Madrid until 1962 and then was appointed to the Hospital del Aire, where he worked until retiring in 1985.

He rose through the ranks, becoming chief of the radiology service and ultimately the medical director of the entire hospital. In 1983, he achieved the rank of brigadier general and was appointed as the deputy surgeon general of the Spanish Air Force.

During his career, Dr. Bonmati was actively involved in many international radiology societies. He was the secretary general of the XIII International Congress of Radiology in Madrid in 1973 and president of the Spanish Society of Radiology from 1974 to 1977. He was awarded gold medals from the XIII and XIV International Congress of Radiology as well as the Spanish Society of Radiology, the Antoine Beclere medal from the XVII International Congress of Radiology, and the Boris Rajewski medal from the European Association of Radiology. He was an honorary fellow of the American College of Radiology (ACR).

Dr. Bonmati was one of the first Spanish radiologists to come to the United States for training. He very much admired our system of training and standardized board certification examinations. After his return from the United States, he became actively involved with the Spanish Society of Radiology for the teaching and development of the specialty. An example of his commitment to the specialty

was his Spanish translation of the *ACR Index for Radiologic Diagnosis* in 1969, which was subsequently published by the Spanish Society of Radiology. He encouraged many young Spanish doctors to come to the United States for training and was instrumental in the organization of many annual Armed Forces Institute of Pathology courses held in Spain since 1991.

Our paths first crossed in 1982 when I arrived in Spain alone—a young radiologist fresh out of residency and new to the air force. Dr. Bonmati was a consulting radiologist at the United States Air Forces in Europe Hospital in Torrejon de Ardoz, Spain, from 1955 until the base closed in 1992. Dr. Bonmati welcomed me and made sure I experienced all things uniquely Spanish: food, wine, fiestas, and even his hometown of Hondon de las Nieves, of which he was so proud.

During my stay in Spain, Pepe Bonmati became like my second father. Without his ever saying it, I knew he deeply cared about me. He was always the perfect gentleman and had a very old-school way of doing things. He saw that I was included in many social and professional events in Madrid. We became close friends and remained so these past 30 years. To know him was a privilege, one I share with hundreds of physicians around the globe whose lives and careers Pepe Bonmati touched so generously. Dr. Bonmati is survived by his wife, Mari Carmen and his seven children, two of whom live in Texas.

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