

PREFACE

Twenty years ago, our special interest in terminology and language, as well as in the history of Catalan medicine, prompted us to compile and study medical eponyms of Catalan origin. To this end, we reviewed all sorts of collections, dictionaries, listings, and textbooks where we thought we might find one.

Being able to search bibliographic databases has enabled us to consult many digital catalogs in our country as well as in other countries and to find books that might be useful for our task. We thoroughly reviewed these books to find medical eponyms of Catalan origin, to obtain information about what the eponym represents, and to collect biographical information about the eponymous person. We also strived to obtain the publication that gave rise to the eponym. In each case, we have tried to reflect the context and historical background in which the eponym originated. Many people have added to our findings, enriching our archives and our knowledge by sending us references about eponyms.

When we undertook this endeavor, little did we imagine that it would span more than 20 years. Now we have compiled over 100 eponyms from virtually all branches of medicine. What started out as a whim, an

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amusing pastime without consequence, has grown into a collection containing over 90 articles with contributions from many authors from various centers and cities.

Through the years, all these articles have been published in Catalan in *Annals de Medicina*, the official journal of the *Acadèmia de Ciències Mèdiques i de la Salut de Catalunya i de Balears*. The Dr Antoni Esteve Foundation published a compilation of these articles –duly revised and, in some cases, expanded– in three volumes, and is now giving us this opportunity to publish this selection in English, which includes eponyms from 25 individuals, some who have inspired more than one eponym. The current collection helps to paint a picture, albeit an incomplete one, of the history of medicine in Catalonia. We are grateful to the *Acadèmia* and to the Foundation for giving us the opportunity to publish these articles.

We are also grateful for the generous and unconditional support of the many people who have helped us to develop these articles throughout the years, especially by providing us with all sorts of information to enable us to write these stories.

Eponyms take us back in time, and by using them we are paying tribute to those who contributed to the development of medical science in their day. We hope this book helps us appreciate these great figures in the history of science, some of whom are well recognized and remembered and others who are less so.

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