

IN MEMORIAM

Marco Caldin “in memoriam”



We have recently received the sad news of the passing of Dr. Marco Caldin.

It is difficult to find words to talk about the *scientific skills of Marco Caldin*, who, without any doubt, had an exceptional and privileged mind. His intellectual and creative abilities in the science of laboratory medicine fulfilled the impression of a genius.

It is difficult to reflect on all the *things that Marco Caldin did for the progress of veterinary clinical pathology in Italy, Europe, and the world*. His brilliance led him to advance in any field in which he worked. He was a pioneer in routinely using acute phase protein profiles in his laboratory more than 20 years ago, making these profiles available for practitioners. Through this early work, he discovered new applications for APPs, such as demonstrating APP profile patterns in hypercortisolism, which he always explained with so much passion. Many of his articles on hematology and clinical chemistry were published in *Vet Clin Path*, with seminal papers on eccentrocytosis, D-dimer analysis, and hematopoietic neoplasia, as well as on APPs in dogs with hyperadrenocorticism with and without concurrent inflammatory conditions.

Marco not only contributed to the progress of clinical pathology by his scientific discoveries. In Padova, Italy, he constructed one of the largest and best-equipped veterinary clinical pathology laboratories worldwide, a paradise for any clinical pathologist. Again, he pioneered the idea of measuring routine analyte profiles with mass spectrophotometry, especially for endocrinology.

It is difficult to express *the outstanding quality of Marco as an educator*. He continuously gave scientific presentations, lectures and courses. Most of them were in the two languages in which he felt more comfortable, Italian and Spanish, where you could fully perceive his vast knowledge and the cutting-edge topics involved. I have never seen anybody interpret an analytical profile with the details, applications and pathophysiological connections as well as he did. In these presentations, in addition to transporting you to his “magic world” of science, Marco had the ability to transmit his passion for the laboratory and its clinical applications; he was a catalyst for us all. I have to admit that on some occasions, after one of his presentations or even after an informal discussion with Marco, I had difficulty falling asleep because my neurons were so stimulated. He was passionate about teaching and raising the standards of veterinarians in clinical practice. As an example, during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, he kept active in continuing education with brilliant presentations and clinical case discussions, helping many clinicians and practitioners to feel less isolated and somewhat happier during these hard times.

It is difficult to find words to reflect *how nice Marco was as a person*. I was fortunate to be his friend and know him deeply. In Marco, I found a humble, sincere, and generous person, who was completely in love with his spouse, Giovanna. He did not care about bureaucracy, spurious things or economic desires. His main objective for each day was to create something new, discover a new idea, make an improvement in the field of laboratory science and transfer this new knowledge to clinical practice.

Marco loved and also was adored by many clinicians that continually followed his lectures and conferences, and who, like myself, were dedicated fans. He always found time in his busy schedule to talk with us when we had doubts or needed additional information about a clinical case or subject. He taught us how to respect science and all that this word implies. We would follow him anywhere, anytime.

Thank you, Marco, for your mentorship and for all of the things you have done to make us love veterinary clinical pathology. You made us want to acquire more knowledge and be better scientists

and people. Your legacy will surely persist, and you will be an example for all the new generations to follow.

Jose Joaquin Ceron

DISCLOSURE

The authors have indicated that they have no affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in, or in financial competition with, the subject matter or materials discussed in this article.

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