PROF. ISABEL ILLA (1952-2022)

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are sad to announce that Prof. Isabel Illa, passed away last night. Isabel, a passionate neurologist, one of the first and few physician scientists of her generation in Spain, has left an impressive legacy for the Spanish and global neuromuscular diseases community, including training and support to several generations of young neurologists that have helped increase the awareness and quality of the neuromuscular care in Spain. The Neuromuscular Diseases Unit at Hospital de la Santa Creu I Sant Pau in Barcelona will miss her invaluable feedback and support. Her discoveries resonate today around the world and her works are widely cited by other researchers. Isabel was the first president of the Spanish Society of Neurology and the first professor of Neurology in Spain. Throughout her career, she has obtained numerous national and international awards. On a personal level, Isabel was true to her principles, her team, and her family. She shared her personal and work life with her husband Rafael Blesa, also a neurologist.

Isabel Illa leaves us an immense legacy. Her discoveries will live on for many years in Neurology books, in the memories of the many people who trained alongside her, and in the lives of the patients and families she treated and who overcame their illness. Rest in peace.

Dr Montse Olivé, Dr. Luis Querol, Dr. Eduard Gallardo, Dr. Janina Tiron, Dr. Ricard Rojas

On behalf of the Neuromuscular Unit, Department of Neurology

Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona

Barcelona

March, 21st, 2022