Jim Tait Goodrich

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It was curiosity that first motivated Jim Goodrich to participate in the second Postgraduated Course on Pediatric Neurosurgery that was held in Assisi (Italy) in 1987. He wanted “to see what pediatric neurosurgery is.” Since this first contact with our specialty, he attended all of ESPN’s courses, first as a trainee and then as a teacher, a charismatic teacher who was loved by all colleagues and, more importantly, by all students. He liked to teach; he liked to share knowledge as well as emotions, feelings, and friendships by participating in countless ISPN and national courses around the world.

It was his curiosity that stimulated him to find new surgical techniques in order to face difficult operations for treating complex craniosynostoses or craniopagus twins. He edited several books that beautifully illustrated the competence he had acquired in these difficult fields.

It was his curiosity for a significant life that pushed him to travel and to visit so many countries to teach and to learn, as every time he came back enriched by new experiences and interests that his sympathetic attitude allowed him to gain. He lived his time intensely. At the same time, he was eager to learn about the past of the neurosurgical sciences by collecting historical books and various items (Fig. 1).

It is a certain cruel irony that such a gifted life was taken in a few days by the seedy underestimated Covid 19 virus, against which no appropriate measures were taken to protect doctors and nurses working in the hospitals for lengthy periods.

With this multi-voice eulogy, the Editor intends to keep Jim alive through the demonstration of sincere friendship, passionate words, and the deep personal memories of some colleagues that speak on behalf of the entire ISPN and ESPN membership.

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Fig. 1 Fine collections of historical artifacts, medical antiquities, and books by James Tait Goodrich

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