

## EDITORIAL

# Professor Ellis Alindo D'Arrigo Busnello: a humanist and a scientist with a passion for psychiatry and psychopathology. A great mentor of Brazilian scientific postgraduate programs in psychiatry

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Professor Ellis Alindo D'Arrigo Busnello (1932-2023)

With deep sorrow, we bid farewell to a true giant of psychiatry – Professor Ellis Alindo D'Arrigo Busnello, an indomitable and creative spirit who passed away on July 12, 2023. A luminary in the fields of psychiatry and social medicine, Professor Busnello's life's journey was an extraordinary odyssey that has left an

indelible legacy for generations of psychiatrists to come.

Born and raised in Brazil, Ellis Busnello took great pride in his Italian heritage, which started in the Tuscan city of Lucca and which he cherished and celebrated throughout his life. Of note, Ellis had the charisma and demeanor of a refined *gentiluomo*. In addition, he exhibited an insatiable curiosity and a passion for the sciences and art. As a young schoolboy, Ellis delved into the responsibility of regulating the temperature of the wine fermentation process in his hometown, Bento Gonçalves. This early foray into the world of science ignited a lifelong dedication to the natural sciences and, later, to medicine.

In 1955, Professor Ellis Busnello graduated from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) with distinction. Remarkably, from the tender age of 3, his precocious literacy set him apart, demonstrating a thirst for knowledge that would forever define his intellectual pursuits. His appetite for literature nurtured a mind capable of profound and imaginative thought. Moreover, his passion for the arts extended beyond literature into the world of music and opera. His commitment to his work and art led him to embark on grand journeys. Mastering different languages and counting friends and disciples in various countries, Ellis was the quintessential citizen of the world.

As his career flourished, Professor Busnello made remarkable contributions across various medical domains. After graduating, he started his practice in the arena of emergency medicine at the Hospital de Pronto Socorro in Porto Alegre and later on in psychiatry at Hospital São Pedro. Busnello consistently sought to elevate patient care and advance medical understanding to unparalleled heights. Driven by his profound grasp of psychiatry, literature, and the arts, Professor Busnello

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emerged as a Renaissance man – a humanist whose wisdom transcended the boundaries of science. At the same time, Ellis held fast to the practical wisdom learned from his father when it came to human behavior and its genetic determinants. Busnello's mentorship breathed life into successive generations of family doctors and psychiatrists, instilling in them a commitment to rise beyond scientific knowledge and embrace an innovative approach to medical care, enriching the lives of both patients and institutions.

Among his many groundbreaking endeavors, Professor Busnello's seminal work on the integration of mental health within a community healthcare system garnered worldwide acclaim. The World Health Organization recognized the brilliance of his visionary model, and his globe-trotting lectures in the late 1960s disseminated his knowledge to developing countries, revolutionizing mental health practices worldwide. Later on, Busnello took on an important role as director of the Graduate Program in Medicine at UFRGS and the residency program at Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre. Apart from UFRGS, Busnello was also a full professor at Universidade Federal de Ciências Médicas de Porto Alegre, where he founded a residency program at Hospital Presidente Vargas.

In 1969, Professor Busnello married Virgínia Martins da Rosa. Virginia and Ellis formed an adorable and loving family that not only wholeheartedly supported him but also embraced his passion for science and understanding the intricacies of the human mind. His own son, João Vicente Busnello, followed in his footsteps, and became the Clinical Director at the Montrose Behavioral Health Hospital in Chicago.

Professor Busnello's pursuit of knowledge knew no bounds. In his youth, he ventured to the prestigious Hopkins School of Public Health in the United States, where he earned his master's degree.

Throughout his career, Professor Busnello's commitment to education transcended teaching. He was a driving force in the establishment of residency programs in community health and psychiatry, as well as graduate programs in the fields of medicine and psychiatry at Centro Médico Social São José do Murialdo, Hospital São Pedro, Hospital de Clínicas de Porto Alegre, and Hospital Presidente Vargas. His tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on medical education in Brazil, shaping the future of countless medical practitioners and psychiatrists.

In recognition of his contributions, Professor Busnello received a plethora of prestigious awards, including a distinction from U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy at Hopkins and correspondent member of the National Academy of Medicine in Brazil (ANM). Alongside his own brilliance, he always cherished the guidance and support bestowed upon him by his late mentor, the renowned Professor Leme Lopes, also a member of ANM.

With a reach that extended far beyond the borders of Brazil, Professor Busnello touched the hearts and minds of many. His visionary mentorship and warmth will be forever cherished by those who had the privilege of crossing paths with him.

We truly honor the memory of this indomitable soul, visionary, mentor, humanist, and friend. Let us pledge to carry forth his vision of excellence in medicine and his compassionate views of psychiatry and mental health. In the face of this loss, we find solace in knowing that Professor Ellis Alindo D'Arrigo Busnello's unparalleled legacy will continue to promote medical excellence and enlightenment for generations to come.

## Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest.