



## The Centennial of Professor Luiz V. Décourt's Birth

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### Dear Editor,

In December 2011, Professor Luiz Décourt would have been 100 years old. The son of a Professor of Natural History, after finishing Medical School, he became the Chair of Internal Medicine of Universidade de São Paulo (University of São Paulo - USP) in 1949 and created the "College of Cardiology," which would eventually reach the entire Latin America, teaching in several foreign universities. Following his vocation, he was a professor of the Schools of Nursing and Nutrition at USP, before teaching at the School of Medicine of the same university. His intellectual production was significant and his academic career culminated with the creation of Instituto do Coração (The Heart Institute)".

He was a consultant in classical music, with a predilection for Mozart and Beethoven, and appreciated the "Symphony of Psalms" by Stravinsky, and "Four Seasons" by Vivaldi, which he would prefer conducted by Maestro Biondi. For the elevation of the spirit, he proposed the andante of the "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra No. 21" by Mozart.

### Keywords

Tribute - Centennial of Prof. Décourt.

I was his student when I became enchanted by his teachings – many years will go by before anyone can surpass him - and he was my Advisor during my Master's and Doctorate degrees: in my Master's dissertation, he was amazed at the fact that the hearts of children with severe malnutrition was "increased" in relation to the body surface and my Doctorate thesis would contribute to develop his social view of "Rheumatic Disease" – it was said in 1972, "the greater incidence in the low-income classes can be explained only by circumstantial environmental and contagion causes in the presence of bacterial infection"; he would say in 1996, "it seems that in rheumatic fever, it is the social factor that shapes the face of organic response to morbid aggression. "

When insecure, he used to tell me: "Your defense should be honest, but not subservient. Accept criticism impartially, particularly the informal ones. Do, however, assert the significance of your observations, as these - obtained with care, impartiality and broad vision - bring data with real medical and social impact. Insecurity is customary in honest and conscientious researchers. "

Our country owes him the full recognition of his work. The "Luiz Décourt's Year of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology" must be considered.

When he died in the city of São Paulo, he was not rich, a serious "sin" in the neo-capitalist society, but as such, he was a special person, as a true Christian.

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