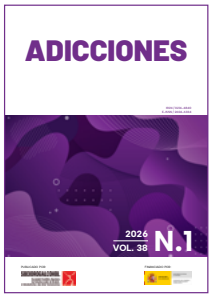
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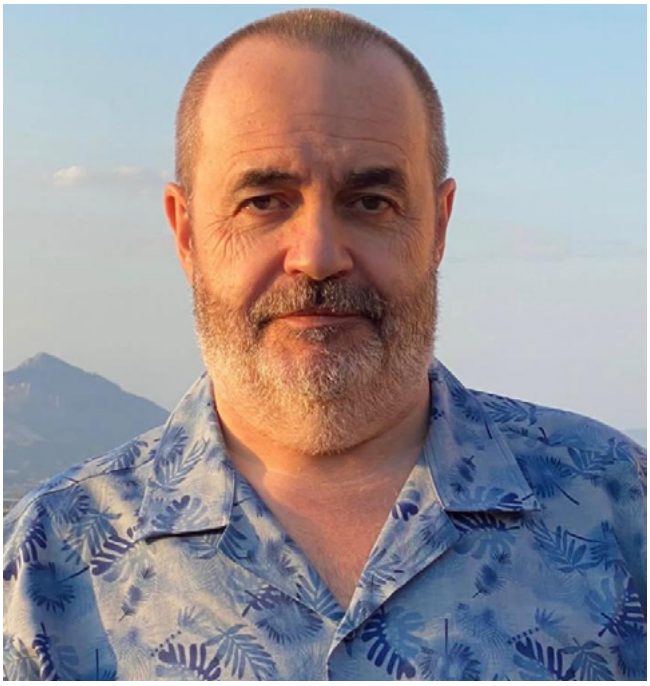
Jorge Manzanares: posthumous tribute to a great researcher, teacher, and friend

Jorge Manzanares: homenaje póstumo a un gran investigador, docente y amigo

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Today we bid farewell to Jorge Manzanares, a great researcher and academic, mentor, loyal friend and, above all, an extraordinary human being who has left an indelible mark on those of us who had the privilege of knowing him. His scientific legacy is immense, but even greater is the memory of his integrity, his constant struggle and his way of being in the world, without concessions. As members of his research team, colleagues from the field of Addictions, disciples and friends, we pay tribute to him, remembering his irreplaceable figure. We all remember his enthusiastic and vital spirit, displayed both in the laboratory and in the small things of everyday life, to which he devoted himself passionately until the very last day.



Jorge Manzanares Robles graduated in Pharmacy from the Complutense University of Madrid in 1985 and obtained his PhD in Pharmacology in 1987, carrying out his predoctoral stage in hospitals such as Ramón y Cajal and La Paz. Between 1988 and 1993 he was a researcher at Michigan State University (East Lansing, USA). Upon

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his return to Spain, he worked in different centres such as Complutense University, CSIC or 12 de Octubre Hospital, linked to research in pharmacology, neurobiology and psychiatry. In 2004 he obtained the position of Associate Professor at Miguel Hernández University (UMH), joining as Principal Investigator of the Laboratory of Translational Neuropsychopharmacology of Neurological and Psychiatric Diseases at the Institute of Neurosciences, a joint UMH-CSIC centre (San Juan de Alicante, Spain). Since 2011 he had been Full Professor of Pharmacology and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at UMH. His professional life was not only centred on his university, but also on multiple national and international centres. Between 2007 and 2011 he promoted and directed the Unit of Translational Neuropsychopharmacology at the University Hospital Complex of Albacete. Subsequently, he carried out leadership and advisory functions in different academic and international spheres, including the scientific direction of a chair on Parkinson's disease, his participation in the Ibero-American Conference of Faculties of Pharmacy (COIFFA), where he was member, vice-president and, recently, President, and his links as Adjunct Professor at New York University (USA) and as Honorary Professor at Norbert Wiener University in Lima (Peru). In addition, he was part of the Executive Committee of the Spanish Society of Dual Disorders and acted as academic advisor for the harmonisation of studies in Bolivian public universities.

But all this academic activity becomes small if we consider his true vocation as a researcher in the field of translational neuropsychopharmacology and, especially, in addictive disorders. Founder of the Translational Neuropsychopharmacology research group at Miguel Hernández University, together with Francisco Navarrete and María Salud García-Gutiérrez, he carried out tireless work in translational research in the neuropharmacology of addiction and neuropsychiatry, as well as in the training of top-level scientists who today proudly take on the challenge of continuing his work and his leadership. From the beginning, Jorge was interested in the role of the opioid system and, shortly afterwards, of the cannabinoid system, in the control of motivated behaviour, emotions and pain. He was a pioneer in the study of the interactions between endogenous opioids and cannabinoids in pain, in neuroendocrine control, and in the pathogenesis of complex psychiatric diseases such as addictions to alcohol, opiates, cannabis and psychostimulants, including their main comorbidities, namely anxiety, depression and psychosis. Author of more than 250 works of great scientific impact, we may highlight his studies on the role of the CB2 cannabinoid receptor in neuropathic pain and in addictions, in collaboration with Rafael Maldonado; the impact of environmental factors (such as abuse) on alcohol use disorder and the development of cannabidiol-based therapies for it, in collaboration with Gabriel Rubio; the role of opioid peptides in cocaine addiction, in collaboration with Emilio Ambrosio; the influence of a high-fat diet on the response to psychostimulants with Marta Rodríguez-Arias and José Miñarro; the impact of alcohol or cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation on offspring and their mothers; or the most recent and innovative research on the therapeutic potential of modulation of the GLP-1 peptide receptor in addictions.

He shared all this immense work, through numerous collaborations, with scientists from all over the world and, especially, with the Spanish community of addiction researchers. He was always at the forefront in the defence and promotion of addiction research. His commitment was first expressed through the Network of Addictive Disorders (RTA), and currently in the Addiction Primary Care Research Network (RIAPAd), both funded by the Carlos III Institute of Health (ISCIII). Thanks to these networks, Jorge devoted the last 20 years to weaving a dense network of collaborations that enabled him to develop complex and innovative translational projects that earned him the respect and admiration of everyone, and their friendship. Because Jorge was a loyal and sincere person with his friends, undaunted, combative against what he believed were injustices and, at the same time, extremely amusing. He did not leave you indifferent. As a mentor, he supervised fourteen doctoral theses, with all his doctoral students developing professional careers in the academic, scientific or healthcare fields with notable success, and constituting the structural basis of his research group, which will now continue his work.

The recognitions he received are the result of this intense academic and research life. In 2018 he was elected Corresponding Academician of the Santa María de Murcia Academy of Pharmacy, Corresponding Academician of the Ibero-American Academy of Pharmacy, and Senior Professor and Consulting Researcher of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Cartagena de Indias in Colombia. In 2019 he was appointed Full Academician (medal 49) of the Royal National Academy of Pharmacy (RANF) of the Institute of Spain, Foreign Corresponding Academician of the National Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Mexico, and Corresponding Academician of the Mexican Academy of Psychiatry and Mental Health. In 2021 he was appointed Distinguished Professor by the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the National University of Córdoba in Argentina. In 2022, he was named Distinguished Visitor by the Deliberative Council of the City of Rosario and received the "Honoris Causa" Doctorate from the National University of Rosario (Argentina). In 2023 he was appointed Corresponding Academician of the National Academy of Medicine of Mexico and member of the Executive Committee of the European Association of Faculties of Pharmacy (EAFP). In

2025 he was appointed Full Academician by the Academy of Pharmacy of the Valencian Community (AFCV) and, very recently, in 2026, he was appointed Corresponding Academician of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences of Portugal (ACFP). In addition, he obtained numerous Research Performance Awards for Full Professors of UMH uninterruptedly between 2014 and 2019, as well as the 2016 Award of the Ibero-American Academy of Pharmacy.

Science is a community of knowledge and curiosity. It is much more than methods, hypotheses, prizes and recognitions. Science is made up of extraordinary men and women who devote their effort and enthusiastic will to the search for the elusive understanding of our own essence as human beings. When one encounters a true scientist and a person with as much humanity as Jorge Manzanares, curiosity, innovation and the need to know more flourish spontaneously. All those of us who had the privilege of his friendship and of his excellence have the duty to keep his spirit alive. He leaves behind his wife, Paz, and two daughters, Marta and Laura, whom we accompany in the pain of their loss. His memory and his legacy will endure both in his family and in the community of researchers who struggle daily against addiction. May he rest in peace.