

## C 5.2. COMMUNICATION – ABSTRACT

# Aureliano Baptista da Fonseca: Physician, Professor and Artist – A Legacy for Portuguese Dermatology

Ângela Ferreira<sup>1</sup>, Amélia Ricon Ferraz <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Unidade Local de Saúde Arrábida, CUF Hospital, Porto, Portugal  
✉ [angela.ferreira@ulsa.min-saude.pt](mailto:angela.ferreira@ulsa.min-saude.pt)

<sup>2</sup> Centro de Biomédica da Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto, CITCEM, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto



This work is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0>

**ABSTRACT:** Professor Aureliano Baptista da Fonseca (1915–2016) stands as one of the most influential figures in twentieth-century Portuguese medicine, academia, and culture. A pioneer of Dermatology in Portugal, he became, in 1943, the first physician to obtain formal recognition as a specialist in Dermatology by the Portuguese Medical Association. Educated, awarded his doctorate, and later appointed professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto, his career was marked by the integration of clinical excellence, pedagogical innovation, scientific productivity, social commitment, and artistic sensibility.

Throughout his professional life, Aureliano da Fonseca demonstrated a profound concern for the social dimensions of disease. His work in the fight against venereal diseases was particularly notable, having organised and led reference services at the Porto Military Hospital and the Central Dispensary of Social Hygiene. He later directed the Department of Dermatology at São João University Hospital, where he played a decisive role in structuring modern dermatological practice and training successive generations of specialists. His academic development was strengthened by international training programmes and study missions across Europe and the Americas, including a scholarship awarded by the World Health Organization.

As a university professor, he challenged traditional teaching models, advocating an educational approach centred on clinical reasoning, observation, and critical thinking. Between 1977 and 1985 his academic influence extended to Brazil, where, at the University of Campinas, he reorganised the teaching of Dermatology, founded a university dermatology service, and contributed to the development of social dermatology in South America.

Beyond medicine, Aureliano da Fonseca cultivated an artistic legacy as a photographer, pianist, and writer. His photographic archive, comprising thousands of clinical and artistic images, together with his literary and musical works, reflects the intersection of science, aesthetics, and human expression. Part of this legacy was entrusted to the Maximiano Lemos Museum, ensuring its preservation.

Practising medicine until the age of 99, he embodied a humanistic, person-centred approach that remains a reference in Portuguese dermatology.

**KEYWORDS:** Dermatology; History of Dermatology; Medical Biography; Portuguese Medicine; Medical Education; Aureliano Baptista da Fonseca