

# Francisco 'Paco' Ynduráin 1940–2008

Francisco Ynduráin, a leading Spanish physicist and a former member of the CERN Scientific Policy Committee, passed away on 6 June after a long illness, which he fought with dignity, courage and determination. With exemplary presence of mind, until the very end, Paco, as he was known to his friends, discharged his teaching duties and kept untouched his dedication to physics. His last dissertation at the Royal Spanish Academy of Sciences in October 2007 is a shining example of his passion for science.

Ynduráin studied mathematics at the University of Zaragoza and obtained his PhD in physics in 1964. Part of this work was done during a first visit to CERN in 1964. In 1966 he moved to the University of New York and in 1968 he gained a CERN fellowship. It was in the course of the latter that one of us (M. A-B) had the opportunity to meet him, and for 40 years he has enjoyed the privilege of Ynduráin's friendship and advice. After various positions at the universities of Madrid and Zaragoza, in 1971 Ynduráin became professor of theoretical physics at the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid. In 1996 he was elected a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

His scientific career has been extensive. He had outstanding mathematical skills, and physical intuition. He touched on many topics, although his preference was QCD, a subject on which he worked until the very end. His book on the subject, published in 1983, has become a classic, as have some of his reviews.



*Paco Ynduráin. (Courtesy Felix Ynduráin.)*

Ynduráin was the first among his theoretical colleagues to realize the need to promote experimental physics in Spain. When the country withdrew from CERN in 1969, he understood that the way of return required the consolidation of the fragile experimental community. In 1972 he started to collaborate with the group at the Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas

Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT). The International Meeting on Fundamental Physics was a joint undertaking of Ynduráin, Lucien Montanet, Juan-Antonio Rubio and one of us (M.A-B). The organization of this meeting, which is now heading for its 37th edition, revealed key features of Ynduráin: the quest for excellence, the rejection of mediocrity and the supreme value of decency.

Ynduráin played a role in the process that in 1983 brought Spain back to CERN, and he was instrumental in the formation of an experimental group at his university, always emphasizing the need for scientific quality and competitiveness. He was a very demanding and motivating teacher and was paramount in inspiring brilliant students. He helped establish a school of creative scientists who started the prestigious Institute of Theoretical Physics at his Universidad Autónoma in Madrid.

Ynduráin was also a man with many cultural interests, with a remarkable taste for music, literature and painting. His appreciation for literature made him a superb science writer. His publications to popularize science and his frequent articles in newspapers have received wide recognition.

Paco was a loyal friend and a fine and noble intellectual who partook in, and promoted, science in Spain. He will be gratefully remembered by those of us who had the great fortune to know him.

*Manuel Aguilar-Benítez, CIEMAT, and Luís Álvarez-Gaumé, CERN.*