

Daniel Vanel.

If you have not heard of Daniel, it must be because you are not involved with oncologic imaging, particularly bone and soft tissue tumors. If you don't remember him, it is because you have never met him.

One of the first words coming to mind when thinking about Daniel Vanel is... brilliant. He was a brilliant man, a performer when taking the stage to lecture or moderate, but also when leaving it. As controversial as needed, with his one-of-a-kind smart elegance. When he was living in Bologna, he had to borrow a suit for a formal event. He said he had left his own suits with his children in France... but for a formal event he would have had to borrow a suit in any case... as his own were not very "formal".

Daniel was a very fair person. He could recognize much better than average what is good and what is bad. He really believed in justice. Simple? Yes. Common? No.

Daniel also loved life more than average; he knew how to have fun. Besides being a true magician, he loved art very much; we studied, X-rayed and scanned several pieces of art together. The word was that he was also a rather good golfer – he truly got into it, and, with his wife Catherine (also a radiologist), used to run to play in the hills next to Bologna whenever he could. Daniel and Catherine lived in a house in the very old, central part of Bologna, with a lovely private garden, which was a treasure, a kind of gem, hidden behind antique walls.

I first met Daniel in 2007, when I was still a resident. Daniel's Italian was already very good. Independently from how "famous" he was, it was immediately very clear that he was a special person. He was the kind of radiologist who brought "lusto" and authority to our discipline. He was able to keep clinicians genuinely interested in listening to him. Not a mere "reporter", he was also a great story teller, which made things even more vibrant.

During his distinguished career, Prof. Vanel's achievements were just impressive. His *cursus honorum* is a story in itself. After being the Chair of Radiology at the Institut Gustave Roussy in Villejuif, France, he came to Bologna, probably in search of new food discoveries and to keep on enjoying life with new adventures... but also to work at the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute. Early on, one of the most authoritative masters in the history of Italian radiology told me: do you have Vanel in Bologna...? Wow.

He was a passionate member of our society – one of the founding members – and President of ESSR entering the new millennium in 2000-2001. Amongst many great achievements he was also President of the International Cancer Imaging Society and Gold medalist of the International Skeletal Society – a society he joined in 1984. Like all the "big names" in the field, he was always fond of the new curiosity or discovery, and the really challenging cases for the ISS meeting.

Daniel passed away on Thursday, June 17th, in France, surrounded by people he loved, after putting up a brave fight against disease. How he faced his illness was really incredible, from many perspectives. He was very calm, very serene.

He will be incredibly missed by his friends and colleagues, and by the people that had the honour and pleasure to have him in their lives. Daniel had a drive, a genius and strength that shone upon

us and inspired good, big things. The fruits of his passion for life, and for what he did, will grow exponentially through the years, through his achievements and scientific legacy, through his beautiful family, and through the original anecdotes that his friends will remember and keep forever.

We had planned a dinner in Rimini. I shall toast for you, dear friend, wherever you are.

Au revoir Daniel.

Sincerely,

Alberto Bazzocchi