
In memoriam of Andrés Pérez-Estaún



FIGURE 1. Andrés showing a geological map in República Dominicana.

Andrés Pérez-Estaún

Zaragoza (12/05/1947) – Oviedo (13/08/2014)

Andrés was born in Zaragoza in May 1947 and died in Oviedo in August 2014.

His family was originally from the region of Jaca in the Aragonese Pyrenees. Andrés attended primary and high school in Zaragoza. At the University of Zaragoza he took his first college course which, at that time, was common to all science degrees.

His interest in Geology led him to the University of Oviedo (Asturias province). In 1970, he graduated in Geological Sciences with an outstanding record. Four years later he received the Diploma of the Imperial College of Science and Technology in London and the “Master of Sciences” at the University of London, ICST. In 1975, back at the University of Oviedo, Andrés obtained his PhD in Geological Sciences and started his academic career doing research, and teaching. He even took administrative responsibilities as Vice-Dean and Dean, and also Secretary of the Institute of Applied Geology.

Andrés was specially gifted for the supervision of doctoral theses and research papers as well as being a great communicator, able to transmit his vivid enthusiasm for geology. Therefore, he was always regarded as an exceptional teacher.

Andrés had very good friends among his students and left an indelible mark as a lecturer at the Faculty of Geology of the University of Oviedo. From the scientific point of view, he was the driving force in promoting international relations for the research group on structural geology. Andrés unveiled to the international geological community the world’s most important geological localities of the NW of the Iberian Peninsula. As a result, the crustal section of the northern branch of the Iberian Massif is known and visited by geologists from around the world.

In 1993, Andrés was awarded a position as Professor of Research at the CSIC-Institute of Earth Sciences “Jaume Almera” in Barcelona. While in Barcelona he pursued frontier research in other parts of the world. During this time he kept strong academic and scientific collaborations with scientists from the University of Oviedo as well as with a large number of colleagues, including many alumni, distributed among different universities, research centers, mining companies or in the free exercise of the profession. He was always considered a reference researcher in different geological specialties.

Andrés was not only an exceptional structural geologist, he catalyzed and participated in several national and international projects dealing with geophysics. His research work is shown by countless publications in journals, book chapters and, as editor of several international publications. It is also noteworthy his participation in numerous international scientific committees and editorial boards of high impact journals. Andrés always stand out for his interest in basic research in Earth Sciences, especially in the field work associated with geological mapping. Strong collaborations and ties with the Geological Survey of Spain (IGME) played a major role in the development of Plan MAGNA in the North Western part of the Iberian Peninsula, which enabled the realization of modern geological maps of this sector of the Variscan orogen. He was instrumental in the development of the deep seismic reflection profiles in the Iberian Massif (ESCIN, IBERSEIS and ALCUDIA projects).

In addition to this work, he also did extensive research in the Urals and, at a later stage, in one of the most active areas on Earth: the Caribbean Arc. In applied research, Andrés collaborated with industry devoted to the storage of hazardous (radioactive) waste. In this collaboration and, also, as Director of the Geology on the national project

for the geological storage of CO₂ he coordinated, very successfully, a multidisciplinary group of Earth scientists.

Recently, his endless curiosity led him to participate in several works on geology and wine. Thus, his last conference, given in the CSIC-ICTJA was a beautiful lecture on the relationship between geological substrate and characteristics of some wines in different parts of Europe, especially in Spain.

In addition to scientific conferences and collaborations in numerous advanced training and outreach actions Andrés used to give informative talks on Geology in Science and Mining Museums, professional societies and associations, municipalities, universities and other institutions. These activities were a priority and an essential part of his daily activity. In recognition of his work, he was appointed Academician of the Spanish Royal Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences, and of the Science Academy of the Dominican Republic.

This short note is not enough to convey what has represented Andrés Pérez Estaún for the geological community in Spain and around the world. Andrés was a

vital person with a great capacity for work, and an asset in promoting innovative and challenging geological projects. His broad knowledge in Earth Sciences and great ability were accompanied by an extraordinary scientific generosity. His opinion was often requested by professional colleagues to solve a large variety of geological problems. While being a great specialist, his curiosity drove him to collaborate with specialists in the various fields of Earth Sciences; so that he can be considered a great “naturalist” of our time.

Fernando Bastida
Universidad de Oviedo

Pere Busquets
Universitat de Barcelona

Ramón Carbonell
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas - Institut de
Ciències de la Terra Jaume Almera, Barcelona

Nemesio Heredia
Instituto Geológico y Minero de España, Oviedo