

# The Professional Trajectory of Professor Fernando Musso: the First Native Anatomist of the State of Espírito Santo

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## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** until the early-1960s, the state of Espírito Santo had not yet had a local-born Anatomy professor with exclusive dedication to this area of knowledge. Fernando Musso is the first Anatomist of Espírito Santo. With a degree in Dentistry from the Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo and subsequently a specialization degree in Morphology from the Universidade de São Paulo, Professor Musso dedicated forty-nine years to lecturing Human Anatomy in his home state. The goal of this work is to document the professional trajectory of this notorious anatomist contributing to the understanding of the anatomical school of Espírito Santo.

**Keywords:** Anatomy; History; Teaching and science.

## Introduction

The first record of the anatomical school of the state of Espírito Santo takes place in the extinct Faculdade de Odontologia, in 1950. At that time this institution was maintained by the State Government, and professors were sourced from states like Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Minas Gerais<sup>1</sup>.

Prof. Alaor de Queiroz Araújo was the first chair professor in the discipline of Human Anatomy for dentistry. Dr. Alaor, as he was always called, was a psychiatrist with a degree in medicine from Universidade do Brasil, in the State of Rio de Janeiro. In the following years, he was Vice-provost of UFES from 1963 to 1967 and Provost from 1967 to 1971 – the main Campus located in Goiabeiras District was named after him<sup>2</sup>.

In 1960, the Ministry of Education and Culture approved the implementation of Faculdade de Medicina do Espírito Santo. In 1961, structural and academic changes took place to make Faculdade de Odontologia e Faculdade de Medicina part of UFES faculties, consequently moving it from the State Government to the Federal<sup>3</sup>. João Luiz de Aquino Carneiro, a general surgeon with a degree from Universidade do Brasil, was hired by the Medical and the Dentistry College at UFES as an assistant professor for Dr. Alaor<sup>4</sup>.

Other professors such as José Aldrovando Vieira de Oliveira, Eugênio Marcos Cavalcanti and Bruno Pelizzaro, who earned their degrees from institutions in other states, were hired as assistants of Prof. Alaor and Prof. Carneiro. In summary, until the early-1960s, the State of Espírito Santo had not yet fostered a local-born Anatomy professor with exclusive dedication to this area of knowledge<sup>5</sup>.

Fernando Musso was born on September 15, 1931, in Santa Teresa, Espírito Santo. He is the youngest and only native Brazilian of four children born to Italian immigrants Amélia Magli Musso and Antônio César Musso<sup>6</sup>. He spent his childhood and early youth studying and living in the countryside cities of Espírito Santo. In 1942, he moved with his family to the city of Vila Velha, a metropolitan region of Vitória. In 1949, he had to quit high school to work as a photographer with his older brother, Ugo Musso, resuming school the following year<sup>6,7</sup>.

In 1957, he got married to Mrs. Ilse Meyer, who always encouraged her husband to abandon photography due to his allergic manifestations caused by the process of photo printing. In fact, after coming across Mr. João Pessoa on the streets of Vila Velha, Fernando Musso was encouraged to apply for Dentistry School at Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo (UFES), which involved a very challenging admission process back then. In 1959, Fernando Musso commenced his application and, in 1960, he was admitted<sup>7</sup>.

In his first year, he attended the Human Anatomy course with Professor Dr. Alaor de Queiroz Araújo. Since the implementation of the Anatomy course, Fernando Musso had been invited to be Dr. Alaor's assistant in lab practices, especially in Dental Anatomy classes, where, among other tasks, he was responsible for drawing anatomical structures/regions to facilitate the students' learning<sup>7</sup>.

After the college federalization in 1961, lab practices using cadavers started taking place at "Jurandyr Lodi" Anatomical Institute, at Thomaz Tommasi Campus (Maruípe, Vitória), widely known as Centro de Ciências da Saúde – CCS<sup>5</sup>. This became a tipping point for the education of anatomy in the State of Espírito Santo and

at the institution as the course previously consisted of theoretical lectures and some lab practices exclusively with dry teeth and bones.

The dynamics of anatomy classes resided in theoretical classes taught by Dr. Alaor and lab practices lectured by Dr. Carneiro. As an assistant student, Fernando Musso aided Dr. Carneiro in the lab practices, which is how he learned didactics in higher education and began all his hands-on training in anatomy, including lectures, dissection, and didactic presentations of gross anatomy in cadavers<sup>7</sup>.

In December 1963, he graduated with merit as a Dental Surgeon (Fig. 1). In 1964, he received two distinguished invitations to compose the faculty board of UFES: one from the Medical School referred by Dr. Carneiro, and the second one from the Dentistry School referred by Dr. Alaor. His graduation led to the break up of a 15-year partnership with his older brother Ugo Musso in a photography firm, commencing the story of Professor Musso, as he is known to this day<sup>7</sup>.

*EMBRALMENTOS DO DR ALAOR DE QUEIROZ ARAUJO MEU GRANDE MESTRE*



**Figure 1.** Dr. Alaor de Queiroz Araújo grants Fernando Musso the award plaque for best student in the Dentistry class of 1963. Attention to the title on the upper side of the photo written by Fernando Musso: "Greetings from Dr. Alaor de Queiroz Araújo my great master". Fernando Musso's collection, 1963.

### Career initiation (1964-1979)

Between 1964 and 1967, Prof. Musso worked assisting Dr. Alaor and Dr. Carneiro in the human anatomy subject for dentistry and medicine courses. Dr. Alaor's leave to assume as provost in 1967 made Prof. Musso the coordinator of the anatomy disciplines in the dentistry course<sup>7,8</sup>.

During Dr. Alaor's time as provost, the university started encouraging professors to obtain postgraduate degrees. Moreover, the dean of the Dentistry College, Dr. Romualdo Gianordoli, arranged an internship for Professor Musso assisting Prof. Dr. André Ricciardi Cruz at the Departamento de Morfologia Humana Funcional e Aplicada from Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto (FMRP - Universidade de São Paulo, USP)<sup>7</sup>.

Upon arrival in Ribeirão Preto, in 1969, Prof. Musso came across a university full of luminaries, many of which had been hired abroad to build a standard of

excellence in the university. As a characteristic of his personality, he arrived with a humble posture to work in the anatomy sector. However, very soon his background and talent drew attention, leading to a shift in his internship to histology. Thus, he had the opportunity to learn scientific methodologies and tissue processing<sup>7</sup>, which resulted in the production of original research<sup>9</sup>. He concluded the internship in late 1969, when he was informed of the possibility to use his original paper as his doctoral thesis. Unfortunately, it has never been officially recognized.

After his homecoming in the end of 1969, Prof. Musso felt encouraged to develop research and resume his activities at UFES. However, the reality of UFES at the time made it unfeasible to perform research at the level he had experienced before at the FMRP. Thus, his work was focused on lecturing<sup>7</sup>.

Prof. Carneiro was transferred to the Department of Surgery in 1971 (CARNEIRO, 2009). Hence, all disciplines of anatomy for the medical and dentistry courses were coordinated by Prof. Musso and Prof. Gilton Coutinho de Barros, respectively. The workload and responsibility earned Prof. Musso a promotion to Assistant Professor and the proper job security granted to tenures. Throughout his hiring process from 1964 to 1971, he worked under an instructor contract, which is compatible with a probation period<sup>7</sup>.

In 1972, Faculdade de Odontologia was totally merged into Thomaz Thommasi Campus, in Maruípe district, where the new teaching centers were created replacing the colleges that once existed there. Thus, the Centro Biomédico (CBM) was created on July 10, 1972, to accommodate the medical and dentistry courses – since November 17, 2005, it's been called Centro de Ciências da Saúde<sup>2,5,8</sup>. After many administrative changes regarding the teaching centers' organizational chart, Prof. Musso eventually came to teach anatomy in the Biology course as well<sup>5,7</sup>.

In 1975, Prof. Musso was promoted to Adjunct Professor through an institutional exam (Resolution nº 05/75 and 09/75 of the Conselho de Ensino e Pesquisa and Resolution 07/75 of the Conselho Universitário da UFES). This was a tipping point in his career as it was the top position, just behind Full Professor at the time<sup>7</sup>.

### Concurrent teaching: UFES and Escola de Medicina da Santa Casa de Misericórdia de Vitória – EMESCAM (1979-1982)

Since Prof. Musso's contract with UFES was free from exclusivity, he began teaching anatomy in the medical course at EMESCAM (today named Escola Superior de Ciências da Santa Casa de Misericórdia) as Adjunct Professor, following the invitation of Dr. Hildegardo Rodrigues<sup>7</sup>.

After the 1982 administrative reform at UFES triggered by the higher teaching career reform initiated by the Ministry of Education and Culture in 1979, all professors were compelled to either resume or

terminate old contracts<sup>5,8</sup>. Thus, in order to avoid labor complications, it was necessary for Prof. Musso to resign from EMESCAM in September 1982 and assign a contract of exclusivity at UFES. His departure from EMESCAM moved colleagues, professor friends, and, above all, his students who greatly admired him.

#### **Exclusive dedication at UFES (1982-1995)**

When Prof. Musso assumed as full-time professor at UFES, he started lecturing for the Physical Education and Psychology courses despite keeping his regular routine in Medicine. In the same year, he was elected vice-head of the Department of Morphology. At the time, other professors from the department were in charge of the anatomy disciplines from the Dentistry and Nursing courses<sup>7</sup>.

In 1984 Prof. Musso was elected head of the Department of Morphology, the same year when he was chosen to represent the Centro Biomédico at the Conselho de Ensino e Pesquisa of UFES, the highest board at the university<sup>7</sup>.

In 1988, Prof. Dr. Fausto Edmundo Lima Pereira aspired to be the dean of the Centro Biomédico, inviting Prof. Musso to run as vice-dean on the ballot. Modest, as usual, and with no high expectations of being elected, he accepted the offer on behalf of their friendship<sup>5,7</sup>. On election day, professors, other university staff and students elected both candidates taking into account their faithful dedication to the institution. That same year, professor Musso was sworn into office by Provost Prof. Dr. Rômulo Penina, to finally assume as the Vice-Dean at CBM, the highest chair in Professor Musso's career.

His administration lasted until 1992, when they were awarded the medal of honor for their dedication, granted by Prof. Dr. Roberto da Cunha, the Provost of UFES at the time<sup>2</sup>.

After 30 years of dedication to UFES, in 1994, Prof. Musso filed for retirement. His departure from the institution was deeply marked by the poetic, beautiful and passionate speech uttered by Prof. Gilton Coutinho de Barros, followed by the delivery of a silver tribute plate during the first extraordinary meeting of the Department of Morphology, on June 15, 1994:

"... let's talk about a MASTER, a man, a spirit in matter, a soul in a body. We know well that what belongs to the matter and the body is perishable and subject to the vicissitudes of time. However, what belongs to the spirit, what belongs to the soul, does not die. And, therefore, the greatest wealth of men is that which resides in the spirit. And, the greatest monument he can build is the elevation of the mind, it is the elevation of the spirit. And much greater than the granite monument is the work that you helped to shape, Prof. Musso, in so many minds of so many of your disciples.

Today, Fernando Musso, we contemplate your accomplished work. Receive, therefore, from all of us,

your colleagues in the Department of Morphology, the most effusive compliments for the magnificent monument you have erected; more indestructible than Bronze, like that of HORATIO, a monument that is your university career, if not your life".

#### **Return to EMESCAM (1995-2013)**

Soon after Prof. Musso retired from UFES, Prof. Dr. Hildegarde Rodrigues invited him to assume as Associate Professor at EMESCAM. Upon returning to EMESCAM in 1995, he started lecturing in the medicine course. His relationship with the Department of Morphology at UFES continued in 1996, when he was selected through a public entrance exam to assume the position of Substitute Professor in the discipline of Anatomy Applied to Psychology. Between 1999 and 2002, EMESCAM launched the Physical Therapy and Nursing courses, respectively, where Prof. Musso lectured as well.

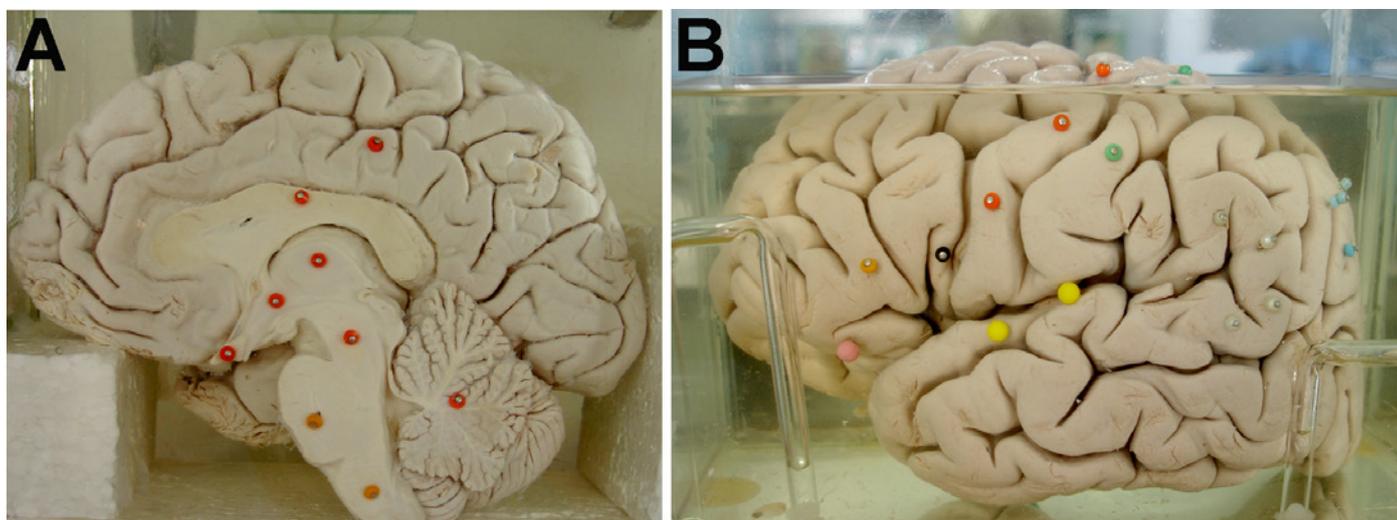
During this second time at EMESCAM, he received several awards. In 1997 and 1998 he was elected one of the 10 best professors of the institution. Then in 2000, the Associação Brasileira de Odontologia (Brazilian Dental Association) bestowed the highest honor to him called Dr. Dario Derenzi Medal. Furthermore, the Sociedade Brasileira de Anatomia (Brazilian Society of Anatomy) granted him the title of Honorary Member in 2001, recognizing his fundamental role in the Brazilian anatomical community. In 2009, he was once again honored at EMESCAM as the best professor, elected by his own faculty colleagues.

However, his pride resides in the beautiful anatomical specimens that he dissected to compose the collection at EMESCAM's anatomy laboratory (Fig. 2). Specimens with didactic innovation<sup>10</sup> expose the delicate structures of the orbit, face, perineum, central part of the nervous system, and autonomic part of the nervous system, just to name a few examples. Regarding more delicate specimens, he further developed sealed glass boxes that allowed the material to be properly exposed, studied and maintained<sup>7</sup>.

In 2013 he turned 82 and handed his resignation letter to the current Dean of EMESCAM, Prof. Ricardo Maximiliano Goldschmidt. After 49 long years of teaching, Prof. Musso finally ends his career at EMESCAM and is honored for his sheer dedication<sup>7</sup>.

Soon after his retirement, the Conselho Regional de Odontologia do Espírito Santo - CRO-ES (Regional Council of Dentistry) offered him the Commendation of Merit Dr. Antônio Alberto Zottich, granted to those who have provided relevant services and work to Dentistry and to the local society<sup>11</sup>.

Throughout his career, Professor Musso assumed a formal and traditional posture. He has always been an advocate for white outfits in lectures and Anatomy laboratories, especially regarding the lab coat. He believed in the symbolism of rectitude of conduct, which represents the first instrument of work in the



**Figure 2.** Specimens prepared and packed in glass boxes. A) Medial view of the brain areas after median section. B) Sulcus and gyrus of the telencephalon. Note the care taken in fixing and exposing the structures in order to improve the visualization and durability of the specimens. Author's collection, 2010.

medical field. He consistently expressed gratitude for the bodies donated for studies, which he demonstrated in the form of a ceremony. Such ceremonies created a deep philosophical and spiritual moment for reflection on those who served as study material, and the benefits provided in the formation of new professionals<sup>7</sup>.

#### **Influence on the formation of health professionals and anatomy professors**

Upon recalling the Master's academic lessons and moral values, the tone of kindness, nostalgia and gratitude in his former students' statements is explicit. As a result, several tributes are addressed to Professor Musso in the form of notes, letters, academic publications, social media posts, weddings, festivities

in commemoration of graduation years and invitations to lecture at final graduating classes.

His stance in the profession inspired students to follow his footsteps and become Professors of Human Anatomy (Table 1). As far as the evidence suggests, nine of his students pursued their occupation. Although more in-depth research is needed, it is known that many other students became professors in various medical areas.

#### **Besides the Academy**

Sculpture, drawing, painting and woodworks are also skills developed by the first native anatomist of the State of Espírito Santo. Professor Musso has several works displayed in academic books, at home, at

**Table 1.** Disciples in order of graduation

<b>Name</b>	<b>Graduation</b>	<b>Actuation</b>
Gilton Coutinho de Barros	Dentistry UFES, 1968	Department of Morphology UFES (1968-1998)
Roberto Vieira Dettogni	Class VII Medicine UFES, 1973	Department of Morphology UFES (1974-2002)
Maria Bernadeth de Sá Freitas	Class IX Medicine UFES, 1974	Department of Morphology UFES (1975-1995)
João Batista de Oliveira	Class XI Medicine UFES, 1977	Department of Morphology UFES (1977-1997)
Daniel de Siqueira <sup>1</sup>	Dentistry UFES, 1978	Department of Morphology UFES (1978-2015)
José Alberto Barreira Sarmiento	Class XIII Medicine UFES, 1978	Department of Morphology UFES (1979-2015)
Rogério Albuquerque Azeredo <sup>1</sup>	Dentistry UFES, 1984	Department of Morphology UFES (1986-2022) Department of Morphology EMESCAM (2010-2015)
Joseberg da Silva Baptista	Physical Therapy EMESCAM, 2005	UAS-UFCG (2009-2010)[2] Department of Morphology UFES (2010- current)
William Paganini Mayer	Physical Therapy EMESCAM, 2005	Department of Morphology EMESCAM (2009-2014) Department of Morphology UFES (2009-2018) Department of Medical Neuroscience, Dalhousie University, Canada (2018- current)

<sup>1</sup>Tutored with Dr. Gilton Coutinho de Barros.

<sup>2</sup>Health Academic Unit (UAS), Universidade Federal de Campina Grande - PB.

friends' homes, and has even exhibited his artwork in a Congress at EMESCAM in 2013<sup>10,12,13</sup>. However, due to his great modesty, he has never considered himself as an artist despite being often referred to as one<sup>7</sup>.

His interest in drawing began at school when he sketched in notebooks and tests to enrich an explanation. However, it was photography that drove his interest in art, which extended throughout college. Such talent became more prominent when Dr. Alaor provided opportunities for him to draw anatomical regions and schematics on the blackboard<sup>7</sup>.

It was only in 1975 when Professor Musso began to sculpt. His first projects were in wood, followed by mud, plaster, clay and soapstone. Among his many works is the bust of Dr. Augusto Coelho e Souza, which is permanently displayed at the Instituto Museu e Biblioteca de Odontologia de São Paulo Dr. Elias Rosenthal (IMOSP), which was commissioned in person by Dr. Rosenthal in 1976<sup>14</sup>.

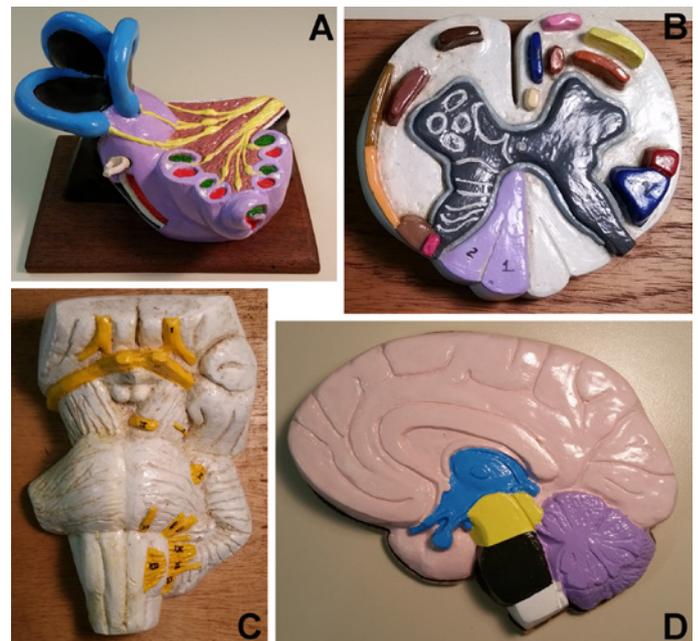
He started painting on canvas only in the 1980s. His work focuses on landscapes from his memories and photographs. Since then, painting has become professor Musso's main artistic field, whose pieces of work have been gifted to several friends (Fig. 3)<sup>7</sup>.

Professor Musso has extended beyond his profession through the manufacturing of educational models. He started producing embryological models in the 1980s

at the request of Dr. Alcary Simões Júnior, professor of Embryology at the Department of Morphology at UFES (Fig. 4). In 1995, when he back to teach at EMESCAM, he started building anatomy models in a systematic way (Fig. 5). Those models were manufactured using wood, resin, clay, and were all hand-painted. Composing the permanent collection of the Museum of Life Sciences at UFES is one of his most beautiful sculptures, the "Pregnant Uterus", produced in the 1980s and with no intention of serving as an educational tool (Fig. 6). Most importantly, Professor Musso still contributes to the Anatomy and Embryology lab practices at UFES by producing and donating his educational models to the institution (Fig. 7)<sup>7</sup>.



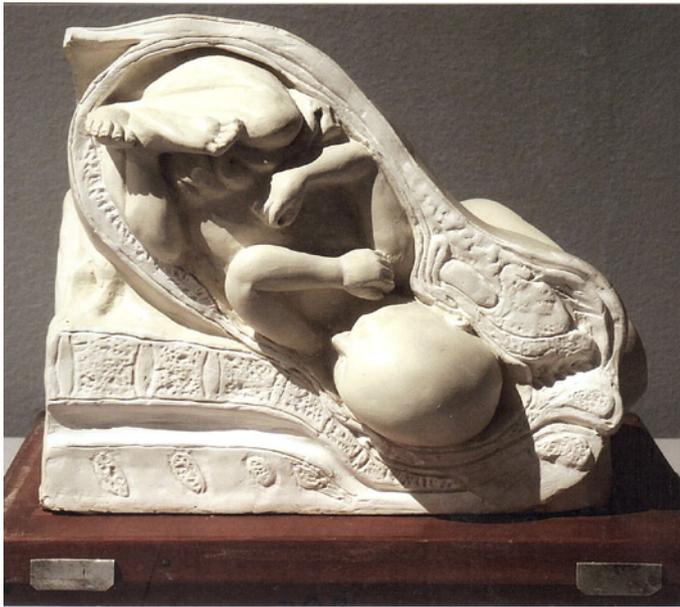
**Figure 4.** Educational models in embryology. A) Formation of the heart (not necessarily in the order of formation). Clay and plaster, hand painted. B) Median section of fetus at 4 weeks. Clay and plaster, hand painted, supported in wood. Both are part of the Embryology lab practices collection of the Department of Morphology at UFES. Author's collection, 2018.



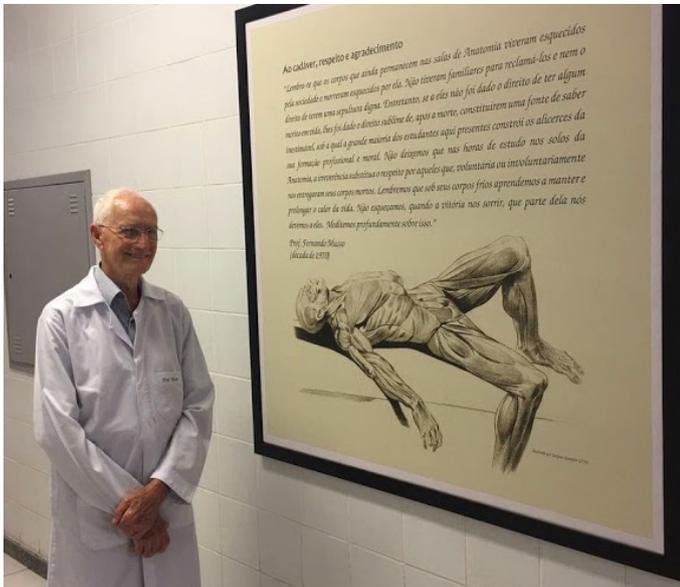
**Figure 5.** Educational models in human anatomy. A) inner ear after a cross-section of the cochlea. B) Sulcus, fissures, and location of the ascending and descending pathways of the spinal cord through a cross-section of the spinal cord. C) brainstem and the apparent origin of the cranial nerves. D) medial view of the encephalon after the median section. All these specimens were sculpted in clay and plaster and hand painted. A-C are attached to wooden boards. Both specimens are part of the Anatomy lab practices collection of the Morphology Department at UFES. Author's collection, 2018.



**Figure 3.** "Anchored Boat", 1989. Oil on canvas. Prof. Musso. Displayed at Cristina Musso Schneider's residence. Guilherme Musso's collection, 2015.



**Figure 6.** “Pregnant uterus”. Plaster and clay. Displayed at Museu de Ciências da Vida, UFES. Guilherme Musso’s collection, 2015.



**Figure 7.** Tribute to Professor Fernando Musso in 2017 from the Anatomy Sector of the Department of Morphology. Author’s collection, 2017.

### Contribution to anatomy museums: UFES and EMESCAM

The Anatomy Museum of UFES started with the collection of special specimens dissected by Prof. Musso and Dr. Carneiro along with monitors of the medicine course. Through his commitment, Professor Musso was the one who contributed the most to the museum collection. He produced detailed dissections in systemic anatomy, mainly gross anatomy, during his

31 years of dedication to UFES<sup>7</sup>.

After dissecting, the specimens were displayed on shelves along the walls of the laboratories of the Anatomy Sector of the Morphology Department at UFES. Those specimens were used both for laboratory practices as well as for museum exhibitions previously booked. Currently, the museum is called Museu de Ciências da Vida – it is now located at the main campus of UFES and hosts a broader collection in the biological area<sup>15</sup>.

In 1995, Professor Musso returned to EMESCAM where he also started dedicating time to the institution's Museum of Anatomy. He contributed to its collection, organization, and visitations with medical students of anatomy. In 2001, these students requested the Dean of the Institution, who promptly agreed, to name the museum “Museum of Anatomy Professor Fernando Musso”. However, knowing that most of the specimens and anatomy preparations displayed in that museum were prepared by Dr. Hildegardo Rodrigues or his assistants, Professor Musso received the honor in a restless manner, given his sense of honesty. To avoid disappointing his students, Professor Musso waited five years for them to graduate before asking the Dean to remove his name from the Museum, avoiding any kind of injustice with the work of Dr. Rodrigues. His request was fulfilled<sup>7</sup>.

### Final considerations

Bearing in mind his 49 years of dedication and efforts aimed at teaching Anatomy, and in an attempt to understand the impact of this anatomist and his philosophy on the medical society, the reader is welcome to calculate an estimation – professor Musso lectured about 40 to 250 students and up to three groups per semester. Considering an average of two groups per semester containing 140 students each, and multiplying it by the 98 semesters in his career, we could assume that Professor Musso lectured approximately 27,440 students. He certainly influenced them with his example of austerity, justice, and modesty.

As mentioned previously, until the 1960s the anatomy professors lecturing in the State of Espírito Santo earned their degrees from universities in states like Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and São Paulo, and in most cases they were part-time professors. Professor Musso, on the other hand, was born and raised in the State of Espírito Santo, where he majored in dentistry and was exclusively dedicated to this area of knowledge. All considered, we can assure that Professor Musso is the first native anatomist of the State of Espírito Santo.

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