



Gonzalo Vidal (1943–1997)

Professor Gonzalo Vidal was in the midst of an exciting scientific career when he succumbed to an infarct of the heart in Uppsala, on January 10th, 1997. We lost an outstanding scientist, a stimulating colleague, and a warm friend.

Gonzalo's scientific interests grew out of studies on Proterozoic organic microfossils, eventually to encompass numerous aspects of Earth's biological and geological evolution during the transition from the Proterozoic to the Phanerozoic. He documented amazingly varied Proterozoic biotas of eukaryote protists and brought them to bear on diverse, though interrelated, topics: ecological interactions, bioproductivity, extinction and radiation dynamics, biostratigraphy, regional geology, crustal evolution, and others. Much of what we know today about the evolution of the biosphere during this crucial interval of time we owe to Gonzalo and to the people he worked with and inspired in various parts of the world.

A Spaniard by birth and temperament, Gonzalo brought his personal warmth and exuberant energy to work in the cold countries: He was based in Sweden and ventured even further into the Arctic on his many field expeditions. But he also went else-

where, to all parts of the world that carried the rocks of his choice. In his early postgraduate years he worked for the National Research Advisory Council of New Zealand, and later he spent year-long periods as a visiting professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Harvard University. He also held a 'Catedratico de Programa Propio' professorship in his native Spain. He had co-workers in many places, particularly in Scandinavia, Poland, Russia, Germany, USA, and Spain. At the time of his death, he was Professor of Micro-palaeontology at Uppsala University, where he had moved from Lund University in 1991.

Gonzalo had recently joined the editorial board of this journal. His time of service there was short, but his services to international science generated an influence that will last.

