

## FOREWORD

The afternoon we met in Barcelona to say our last farewell to Josep Serra Kiel (1947-2019) there was a huge diversity of people in the hall. Beside his family, there was this all-in-one group of friends-colleagues-students, who felt having lost not just a friend, a colleague, a professor or the three altogether, but also some kind of reference in their lives. Some of us had not met for a long time. We spoke calmly and in a low voice about our experiences with him. Everybody could tell about a special moment, when Josep excelled saying something unusual, that would left one thinking about the subject for a long time.

For close colleagues, Josep was this kind of person with strong ideas, we may say granitic ideas, using a geological term. In some occasions, there was little space for doubt or contradiction with him. One of his points of view that did not admit any discussion was that he detested honours or memorials, which he saw as a kind of theatrical act. It became very clear to us that he did not want any kind of homage after passing away. However, at that precise moment we did not completely understand what our professor was telling us; still another difficult exercise of self-discipline and control, like many others he asked us for during the long years we were fortunate to share our lives with him.

In that special day we all met to say our last farewell to Josep it became apparent that he left many works unfinished. In fact, his contribution to the biostratigraphy of larger foraminifera was almost ready in most of the papers, and what was left was the writing of some additional geophysical or stratigraphic sections of the papers. This was the opportunity we needed: joining all these unfinished works in a posthumous volume of our journal, *Geologica Acta*, would be our opportunity to close a door that was still open. An 'In Memoriam' of Josep, would not contradict his wishes against homages.

Afterwards came the pandemics and all the projects slowed down. Finally, today we can present this special volume. It contains four long papers, some almost a monograph, which cover the scientific interests of Josep Serra-Kiel in the last years of his life:

- Serra-Kiel, J.; Vicedo, V.; Baceta, J.I., Bernaola G., and Robador, A. (2019): Paleocene Larger Foraminifera from the Pyrenean Basin with a recalibration of the Paleocene Shallow Benthic Zones. This first published



**FIGURE 1.** Josep Serra-Kiel working in Dhofar (Oman) in 2009. Photograph taken by Dr. A. Gallardo.

paper represents a two-in-one of the main interests of Josep in the last years, *i.e.* the study of the still poorly known Paleocene larger foraminifera and the calibration of the shallow benthic zones (SBZ) with the Global Polarity Time Scale (GPTS).

- Silva-Casal, R.; Serra-Kiel, J. Rodríguez-Pintó, A., Pueyo, E., Aurell, M., Payros, A. (2021): Systematics of Lutetian Larger foraminifera and magnetobiostratigraphy from the South Pyrenean Basin (Sierras Exteriores, Spain). This study lies again along the main flow of Josep's research in the last years, which is the calibration of shallow benthic zones (SBZ) to the GPTS. In this occasion this objective is reached for the Lutetian, which was still poorly known, since Josep's work was focused mainly in the calibration of Priabonian SBZ.

- Rodríguez-Pintó, A., Serra-Kiel, J., Bernaola, G., Barnolas, A., Pueyo, E., Tosquella, J., Arbués, P., Scholger, R. (2022): The early/middle Eocene transition at the Ésera valley (South Central Pyrenees): Implications is Shallow Benthic Zones (SBZ). In the same line as previous paper, this one allows for a precise correlation between the Shallow Benthic Zones and magnetostratigraphy at the Ypresian-Lutetian boundary.

- Pueyo, E., Rodríguez-Pintó, A., Serra-Kiel, J. and Barnolas, A. (2022): The chronology and rotational kinematics in the South-Eastern Jaca Basin (Southern Pyrenees): Las Bellostas section. This last paper represents

also one of the main milestones of Josep's career, which was the application of larger-foraminifera biostratigraphy in providing the chronological framework for studies in regional geology.

We hope this volume may be of interest to you and we are sure Josep would be greatly pleased to see his work finally published in *Geologica Acta*.

Carles Martín-Closas, Alejandro Gallardo and Xavier Delclòs