



## Jean Delaire, source of a vocation and literary inspiration

### Authors :

Michel Sapanet



### Institutions :

Université de Poitiers. CHU de Poitiers. Médecine légale. CS 90577 86021 Poitiers, France

### Abstract :

The first book in a series intended for the general public, "Chroniques d'un médecin légiste" (Pocket Editions) brings together some thirty stories. The daily life of the coroner is dissected with great detail and impressions, far from the clichés and the image given by the television series. The book alternates chapters devoted to criminal cases with other "lighter" ones, where humor is a way out, as it often is in life.

To imagine that Jean Delaire is quoted in it is at first surprising. And yet!

March 1983. I was happily immersed in his department, fascinated by the character and his architectural analysis, when a cop came to present him with a skull. I heard my boss describe the missing face in all its details. A few days later, the sketch appeared in the press. To make a skull talk, to give it a face. To look for something that could be close to the truth. Inevitably, an "I want to do that" came to me: I will also be a forensic scientist.

Twenty years later, when it came to explaining a forensic vocation in a maxillofacial surgeon, the link was obvious.

Jean Delaire and his analysis have accompanied me throughout my professional life: in my surgical practice, in my expert assessments of responsibility, in the identification of bodies, until I was able to evoke his work in a scientific book co-authored with another major figure, this time a paleontologist.

(La dent et son environnement - Regards croisés d'un chirurgien-dentiste, d'un paléontologue et d'un médecin légiste P.Fronty, M.Brunet, M.Sapanet, Préface de Y.Coppens. Ed. Atlantique, 2022)