



Obituary: Prof. Francisco Escobar del Rey

Prof. Francisco Escobar del Rey passed away in Madrid on the 16th December 2015 at the age of 92 years. He was born in Villaviciosa de Cordoba, Spain, of which he was a “Favorite son”. In the nineteen fifties he graduated from the Medical School of Granada. He completed his doctoral thesis on the administration of iodized salt in the Iodine deficient region of “Alpujarras”, under the mentorship of Prof. Ortiz de Landazuri. From then his scientific career is inseparable from that of his wife, Prof. Gabriela Morreale. They worked for several years at the University of Leiden with Prof. Andreas Querido. Upon their return to Spain in 1958, they founded the Thyroid Study Unit at the High Research Council. In 1974 they moved to the Autonomous University of Madrid, and were co-founders of the Instituto de Investigaciones Biomedicas. Prof. Escobar participated in numerous studies on thyroid gland physiology, and on thyroid hormone metabolism. He and Gabriela made fundamental contributions to thyroidology, including the physiological importance of T4 to T3 conversion in peripheral tissues, the transfer of thyroid hormones across the placenta, and the importance of maternal hormones in the developing fetus. They performed studies in iodine deficient regions of Spain and promoted salt iodization. They also established the program for screening of congenital hypothyroidism in newborns. Prof Escobar remained active until 2007 when he retired at the age of 84. He is survived by his spouse, Prof. Gabriela Morreale de Escobar, his son Dr. Hector Escobar-Morreale, and grand daughter.