

In Memoriam

It was with great sadness that the international thyroid community was informed of the passing away of Professor Geraldo Medeiros-Neto on 21st January, 2022, at the age of 86.

We have lost a great scientist and excellent friend!

Dr. Medeiros-Neto was born in São Paulo, Brazil, where he graduated and completed his Residency in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology at the University of São Paulo. After his studies, he moved to Boston, USA, to undertake a research fellowship under Professor John B. Stanbury at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He subsequently returned to São Paulo where he founded and headed the Thyroid Laboratory at the Hospital das Clinicas da Universidade de São Paulo for several decades, performing seminal studies on dishormogenesis and endemic goiter with his Brazilian team and international colleagues such as Peter Kopp and Hector Targovnik. His work is reflected in more than 237 peer-reviewed publications indexed in PubMed as well as in the 12 books of which he was the editor, author, or co-author.

He was elected Member of the São Paulo Academy of Medicine and, in recognition of his contributions to clinical and basic research thyroidology, he received awards from the Latin American Thyroid Society as well as being conferred the prestigious Paul Starr and Sydney Inbar Awards by the American Thyroid Association. Geraldo was a distinguished member of the ETA since 1977.

For two decades, Dr. Medeiros-Neto was a strong promoter of the implementation of an iodization program in Brazil, in which country the issue had not been adequately addressed since 1955. In 1995, he and a number of colleagues finally succeeded in convincing the Brazilian Government to introduce a law stating that all salt for human use was to be iodized at levels established by the Health Authorities.

Geraldo was one of the founders of the International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCIDD).

I met Geraldo in 1985 at the 10th International Thyroid Congress which was held at the Maksoud Palace Hotel in São Paulo. At that time, I was in Ulm, Germany, and that was my first ITC. He chaired the POC and organized an impressive scientific and social event. As a true Brazilian, he adored

football, and, indeed a soccer game between an ETA team and a LATS team was organized at the “Lebanon Club” in SP, which, however, was canceled due to heavy rain!

In the following years, we met at the ETA, ATA, and ITC Meetings and at several Meetings on recombinant human TSH. Furthermore, I was delighted to have Geraldo as my guest in 2007 in Santorini, Greece, at the ETA-International Meeting on Environment and Thyroid Cancer.

Everybody knew Geraldo as a very friendly, vivacious, and sociable personality, extremely admired and popular at every Meeting. The memories are so numerous and heart-warming!

Professor Geraldo Medeiros-Neto is survived by his beloved wife Suzana, their four children, and their nine grandchildren.

The ETA expresses its deepest condolences to Suzana, his family, and his colleagues.

We will miss him a lot!

Leonidas Duntas