

NEWSLETTER

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STAFF MEMBERS



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SPECIAL ARGENTINA ISSUE



GOVERNING BOARD IN ARGENTINA

Standing: Carlos Salazar, Alberto Morales, Juan Manuel Sotelo (PAHO/WHO Representative), Oscar Larghi
Seated: Elsa Accardi, Hilda Bóo de López Adaros, Isabel Kantor, Leda Cachafeiro, Miguela Pérez Esandi, Alicia Gutiérrez Reto

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INTRODUCTION

The Editorial Committee is proud to present this special edition of the Newsletter devoted to our colleagues residing in Argentina. Although a good number of PAHO retirees are members of both AFISM and of AFICS, most of their activities are channeled through the latter association. It is to be noted, however, that the Association of Former International Civil Servants in Argentina (AFICS-Argentina) represents the interests of its members through a Governing Board, consisting of ten members, seven of whom—including the President—are PAHO/WHO former staff, and are actively supported by the PWR office in Buenos Aires, which provides space, services, and equipment for its operations.

The Secretary of the Governing Board, Leda Cachafeiro, volunteered her time and talent to coordinate efforts at the local level that made this edition possible. Our thanks go to her; to the PWR, Juan Manuel Sotelo; and to President Oscar P. Larghi for their invaluable support to our initiative.

We are sure that our members will enjoy this special edition, and we would welcome comments and suggestions for future editions of the Newsletter.

ARGENTINA

General Information

On 10 March 1986 a group of former staff members of United Nations agencies met to share ideas on the formation of a nonprofit civic association for former UN staff residing in Argentina. In attendance were:

Carlos Cavallini	ECLAC
Mario Felszer	WHO
Oscar P. Larghi	PAHO
Héctor Sosa Padilla	PAHO
Martín Vázquez Vigo	PAHO

The first President of AFICS-Argentina was Martín Vázquez Vigo, who was paid homage *in memoriam* on 26 November 2001 at the PAHO/WHO Representative's Office in Argentina.

Creation

The Association of Former International Civil Servants in Argentina (AFICS-Argentina) was created on 6 August 1987 in Buenos Aires as a nonprofit, apolitical civic association with no religious affiliation. It is a single entity that covers the entire country.

Goals

Its goals are:

- to bring together on a voluntary basis former UN agency staff currently residing in the Argentine Republic and, at the request of the interested parties, former staff in bordering countries that have no similar associations;
- to keep members informed of actions and steps that may affect their interests as former staff;
- to represent the interests of members and their dependents in dealings with management and the governing bodies of the UN system and other national and international bodies. The Association can assume this representation itself, or go through the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS, Geneva, Switzerland), with which it is affiliated, or through appropriate legal entities and/or representatives.

This Association, represented by its President, participates annually in the meetings of the Board of FAFICS, the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and its Standing Committees. A document presented at the 32nd Meeting of the FAFICS Board in New York in July 2003, "Is the UNJSPF Pension Adjustment Fair?", points out the inequities of the Pension Adjustment System for former staff residing in countries with unstable economies.

- to offer guidance and assistance in matters of interest;
- to keep members informed and to promote and facilitate their participation in technical cooperation activities if an organization requires it;
- to promote the well-being of members and their respective communities through their participation in social, cultural, educational, recreational, and public service activities;
- to undertake any other activity that will lead to better fulfillment of the Association's goals.

Its resources consist of member quotas and donations.

Governing Board

The Association is directed and administered by a Governing Board, currently comprised of:

President		
Oscar P. Larghi	PAHO	
Vice President		
A. Jorge Morales	UN	
Secretary		
Leda Cachafeiro	PAHO	
Deputy Secretary		
Alicia Gutiérrez Reto	PAHO	
Rapporteur		
Naúm Marchevsky	PAHO	
Treasurer		
Isabel N. de Kantor	PAHO	
Deputy Treasurer		
Elsa L. de Accardi	UNIC	
Regular Member 1		
Carlos Salazar	UN	
Regular Member 2		
Miguela Pérez Esandi	PAHO	
Substitute Member 1		
Hilda Bóo de López Adaros	PAHO	

The Board meets the first and third Tuesday of each month; the second and fourth Tuesday are devoted to seeing members from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the PAHO/WHO Representative's Office in Argentina.

The Accounts Review Committee is made up of two regular and two substitute members who serve for a two-year term and may be re-elected.

The Association has the following subcommittees and coordinators:

Members and Social Activities - Hilda Bóo de López Adaros
 Older Adults and Culture - Miguela Pérez Esandi
 Assistance and Social Services - Naúm Marchevsky
 Assistance with Pensions - Oscar P. Larghi

Agreements

AFICS-Argentina obtained service agreements for its members with the Centro de Diagnóstico y Tratamiento Dr. Di Rienzo, Diagnóstico Médico, the Farmacia Lucioni, and Vittal S.A., in the latter case so that, by paying a small monthly fee, retirees can obtain emergency home medical care and ambulance services for transfer to medical facilities.

Donations

Through the Asociación Civil de Padrinos de Escuelas Rurales [Civic Association of Rural School Sponsors], AFICS-Argentina acts as sponsor for a school in Río Negro Province,

making an annual donation for the purchase of books, school supplies, and farming implements.

Number of Retirees

In Argentina there are 345 retirees and a large number of former staff of the UN system who did not opt for a pension. AFICS currently has 205 members, 85 of whom worked at PAHO.

Relations with the PWR Office

AFICS maintains excellent relations with the PAHO/WHO Representative in Argentina, Dr. Juan Manuel Sotelo, who lends his support and is kind enough to provide the space, services, and equipment necessary for its operations. In addition, thanks to the efforts of several Representatives, staff members and retirees of the Pan American Health Organization can receive medical care at the following facilities with which PAHO has agreements: Hospital Alemán, Instituto Cardiovascular de Buenos Aires, FLENI (Foundation to Fight Neurological Diseases in Children), Sanatorium Mater Dei, Sanatorium Las Lomas, and Hospital San Juan de Dios.

It is important to acknowledge the readiness of staff at the Representative's Office to discuss issues with retirees and to forward matters to Headquarters. Thus, despite the distance, former staff feel that they have support when problems arise.

Perspectives

by Juan Manuel Sotelo, PWR, Argentina



Juan Manuel Sotelo

Leda Cachafeiro has asked me to contribute a few lines for the publication of the Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members, a request

that I am very pleased to honor since I know the Association and its origins and I take an interest in it.

The Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS-Argentina) is comprised of a select group of individuals, the majority of whom are former staff of the United Nations system in the country. This group meets at our offices on Tuesdays, and it is always a pleasure to see them and know that they are close members of PAHO's extended family.

Throughout my tenure in Buenos Aires, I have had many contacts with former staff members as individuals, as a group, and as members of the Association. In my contacts with individuals, I have seen a number of the Office's collaborators retire in a relatively short time, including such legendary figures as Kuky Gandini and Miguel Molina.

My reenounters with retired colleagues, such as Leda Cachafeiro, whom I knew when she was but a student at the university, or Néstor Suárez

Ojeda, my longtime friend, or the widow of Mario Eisler, leave me no doubt that we are looking at our own future, vital and present.

In my contacts with staff as a group, their support in the celebration of the Organization's 100th year is still fresh, and their presence is evident whenever it is needed. As members of the Association, since it is a young association, I have had only a few opportunities to deal with some of its members at Headquarters and in the field—contacts that have always proved agreeable and positive.

Let me take this opportunity to reiterate the willingness of the Office that I head to strengthen ties with former staff members (Florentino García Scarponi has been helping me for some months now, as has José Luis Zeballos from other latitudes, who has spared no effort to assist us with the complex emergency confronting the country) and to strengthen what is a historical relationship in every sense of the term, with the past, the present, and the future.



Eva Rodríguez (UNDP), Hilda Bóo de López Adaros, Elena Musmanno, y Miguela Pérez Esandi

Articles contributed by Local Members

Elena Musmanno, Member of AFICS and Distinguished Citizen of Buenos Aires

by Leda Cachafeiro

Dr. Elena Musmanno entered the program for dietitians when it was first offered in 1938. Of the initial 300 students, she was one of only eight who graduated. For almost 40 years she was heavily involved in the Healthy Eating Plan, a program to provide essential nutrients in sufficient quantities and variety. Executed with limited

resources, the Plan promotes the cultivation of vegetable gardens or small farms in very poor and remote rural areas, with the school as the focus. Thus, the Plan exerts its influence through the child to the family and the community. The aim is to benefit all of the country's inhabitants. Even though Argentina is blessed with an abundance of food, surveys reveal serious nutritional deficits that urgently require attention.

Dr. Musmanno has created regional networks that to date have given tools and seeds for over 14,000 school vegetable gardens throughout the

country—networks that continue with this effort. Among the honors that she has received over the course of her career is a gold medal from the Medical School with the inscription "From the Fatherland to Dr. Elena Musmanno." She is the author of *La escuela como tribuna alimentaria* [The School as the Starting Place for Nutrition], a book that is already in its sixth edition. Her new book, *Testimonio de vida* [Testimony of Life], which is currently in press, is an autobiographical account with a foreword by Ambassador Enrique A. Candiotti, who declares that the author represents "a challenge whose example we should follow."

Life after PAHO: Man Proposes, God Disposes

by Eduardo R. Centeno

At the end of 1986, my approaching retirement as a scientific investigator at PANAFTOSA led me to look inward and consider my life since my graduation in 1952. In 1960 I was teaching in the Departments of Biochemistry and Bacteriology, Immunology, and Parasitology at the National University of Córdoba and was a chemistry professor at the National School of Montserrat, when I received an invitation to join the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology at the University of Buffalo (later the State University of New York at Buffalo) as a Research Associate. The trip for myself, my wife, and my son was financed by the University of Córdoba, where I was to return when my projects in the United States came to an end. When the time came, instead of offering me the position of assistant professor, which I had expected because I had completed the course requirements, the University of Córdoba terminated my contract, notwithstanding the experience I had gained, the papers I had published, and a letter of recommendation from the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology.

I had a wife, three children (two were US citizens), and a future. Fortunately, I already had a reputation, and the Director of the Immunology Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry at McGill University in Montreal offered me a position as a research fellow until the University could set up the first department of immunology in North America, where I would be an assistant professor. We negotiated with several universities in the US and Canada and finally reached an agreement with the University of Manitoba, founding the first department of immunology,

where I served as one of its assistant professors. I then moved to Winnipeg with my wife and four children, since we had had another child, who is a Canadian. There, I happily embraced a new experience: setting up the Department of Immunology, from the construction of a temporary building to its relations with other departments.

Three-and-a-half years went by, and this extremely productive and gratifying experience enabled me to attend many conferences and teach courses in Canada, the United States, Argentina, and several European countries.

However, I had a debt to repay: to return to Argentina with all the experience I had gained. At one of the scientific meetings that I frequently attended, the Annual Meeting of FASEB, I encountered, as I had many times before, Howard Goodman, the Chief Immunologist at WHO, whom I had met in a workshop offered by WHO in Lausanne. I mentioned my desire to return to Argentina, and he responded that Argentina would not be possible but that Rio de Janeiro was. I accepted and we stayed there for 15 years. It was a new experience for the entire family, beginning with a new language, Portuguese, and a lifestyle different from the many others we had experienced. The new language was added to the Spanish that my children speak well as the language spoken at home, to the French they learned in Montreal, and the English they learned in the US and Canada. I would like to note that my Canadian granddaughters, who are 3 years old, speak proper Spanish, French, and English for their age.

Life in Rio was very productive. During my eight years as Professor *ad honorem* of Immunopathology and Immunoparasitology at the Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, I taught courses at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the University of Belo Horizonte in Brazil, and in Colombia and Venezuela as well. My extracurricular activities and my love for education led me to become Chairman of the Board of the Society of Our Lady of Mercy, which operates one of the two bilingual schools in Rio de Janeiro where my children studied.

I asked myself what would be the best way to take advantage of all my experience, and I decided to set up a think tank to tackle issues in immunology, an undertaking that did not require equipment, but books, journals, and brains. There are no funds for equipment in Argentina, but we do have brains; as for books I could have

donated my library and with my connections, secured some external financial support.

Unfortunately, my mother got sick and I had to take charge of her care, and the think tank became but a dream. However, I had time to devote myself to consulting as a former immunochemist at PANAFTOSA and also to activities in professional groups. I was a founding member of AFICS-Argentina, a member of the Accounting Oversight Committee, Secretary for four years, and a member of the Board for another four.

I pondered the question of why our countries, which bemoan the lack of support for scientific research, do not make use of the experiences of their sons and daughters when they return to their native land and also why PAHO/WHO does not take advantage of its former staff members as part-time consultants.

Another problem is the issue of scattered families: a son in Brazil, two daughters in Montreal, and another in Buenos Aires. Five grandchildren—to watch them grow only on a computer screen. Fortunately, we have the computer and the Internet to keep in touch with them. Travel is becoming more difficult every day—especially with the current pension adjustment policy, which every day is more unfair, since the staff in charge of the Pension Fund are more interested in the surplus of the Fund than in the well-being of retired staff. Budget constraints are also making themselves felt in subscriptions to scientific journals and dues to scientific societies, which are the daily bread that nourishes our scientific spirit.

The moral: I left Argentina for two years and I returned 27 years later. Man proposes—God disposes.

Perspectives on Life as a Retiree in Argentina

by **Aida S. de Gandini**

In Argentina, most PAHO retirees had more than 20 years of service with the Organization, a good part of their lives. Thus, whenever a staff member retires, the question of what to do with so much free time in this new life inevitably arises. •

Even before retirement, many staff members make plans for the future; others, once they have adapted to their new life, have tried out various alternatives such as new types of work or educational opportunities. In the case of women, some have opted to stay home and devote themselves

to their families, which their jobs had not always allowed them to do.

Some of our former staff members have distinguished themselves as writers, who had books on display at the last Book Fair, and painters, who have contributed to exhibits in Buenos Aires.

Travel to different parts of the world has kept many retirees busy and is a preferred occupation among them, since the vast majority have children who have been educated and have settled in the countries where the staff members served.

The pensions that retirees receive enable them to enjoy a decent standard of living, although the devaluation of the Argentine peso has substantially raised the cost of food, clothing, and drugs in particular—in some cases, too disproportionately.

It is important to note the support provided by a local association such as AFICS, which has obtained significant extra health benefits for its members, in addition to providing them with up-to-date information on many issues and with help on pension and health insurance matters.

Finally, it could be said that, while pondering “*what will life be like after PAHO?*” is difficult, former staff members have diversified, opting for a variety of gratifying activities.

Personal Experiences

by **Germán Noriega Arce** (Peruvian)

I worked as a PAHO consultant, helping to set up the Health Laboratories and National Laboratory Networks in Argentina, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Uruguay from 1977 to 1985, the year I retired. For family and personal reasons I settled in Argentina. My sons went to school and, once their studies were completed, married Argentine girls. I currently have five grandchildren, three in Buenos Aires and two in Italy.

Since I am a physician, I revalidated my license in this country and I practice privately, *ad honorem*, when friends or family members consult me. From 1987 to 1989, at the invitation of the University of Buenos Aires (School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, Microbiology Department), I taught graduate courses in the theory and practice of quality control in vaccines and biologicals for human and veterinary use.

In 1991, the head of the Parasitology Laboratory at the F. J. Muñiz General Hospital for Infectious

Diseases and the Education and Research Office of that same institution requested that I serve as a consultant in parasitology, an offer that I accepted, although under the condition that my services would be *ad honorem*. I continue to serve in this position.

For the past six years I have been Vice President of the Cooperation Unit at the Carlos G. Malbrán Microbiology Institute, always without pay.

I continue to attend local and international scientific meetings, giving talks in my specialty.

A Difficult Decision

by **Delia Pasini**, former CEPANZO staff member

When I resigned my post as secretary to the Director of the Pan American Zoonoses Center in 1987, I had no work on the horizon but was very keen on becoming independent. I had been working for different companies as a bilingual secretary since the age of 19. In 1979 I published my first book of poetry, which was rather successful. Others followed.

At the time I was facing the dilemma of having an excellent, though very demanding, job that was inexorably turning me into a weekend writer, or opting for more independent work and having more time and energy to devote to literature. Furthermore, my job (I had taken the post in 1972) had become the same old routine, which was depressing. Of course, I knew that I could not even dream of living off the income from my writing, but I did need to branch off in new directions.

Once I had made the decision to retire, I spent many sleepless nights; very fearful, I tossed and turned. Actually, my secret aspiration was to become a translator, specializing insofar as possible in classical literature. However, at the time, I did not feel mature enough for such a responsibility.

Since I wanted to buy an apartment, I withdrew all my money from the pension fund. With only a little savings, I knew that from then on I would have to be very careful with my finances and fend for myself. This step did represent a loss of security, and it worried me. As it turned out, however, I did not have an idle minute.

At the beginning, some grant holders and other professionals that I had contacted sent me their

papers to translate into English. Shortly thereafter, I joined the Pan American Health Organization as a short-term contractor to work in administration and the publications program. Then, I worked on a World Bank project. At the end of that contract, I began a two-year stint as a translator for Kellogg Foundation projects for Latin America. Around that time I connected with a group of professionals who headed up a center for public policy studies, who began to give me books to translate. In the midst of all this, I continued to publish my little books and was already working as copy editor and occasional contributor to a business magazine.

I was delighted with my new activities, because they allowed me to enjoy my free time. I no longer had to work eight hours a day. Little by little, I started moving in the desired direction and began to translate classical literature for a major publishing house. I was also working on the foreword and, in some cases, the preliminary study and even the research on the work. I continue to do this type of work, and it fills me with pride. It is a heavy responsibility but at the same time is immensely gratifying.

Sometimes I wonder what I would have done if I had known that the Center would be shut down in a few years. I don't know. At the time, I couldn't guess it. No doubt I would have had financial security, but my life would not have followed the same path. My work with CEPANZO and PAHO certainly opened many doors. Those years left a deep mark, but a road lay ahead of me and I had to—and still must—continue on my journey.

TRANSITIONS AT WHO AND PAHO

WHO

On 20 July Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland ended her five-year term as Director General of the World Health Organization. Formerly prime minister of Norway for 10 years, Dr. Brundtland chose not to seek election to a second term as head of WHO.

Dr. Lee Jong-wook, a South Korean who has worked at WHO for 19 years, took office as the new Director General on 21 July, at which time he introduced the 16 members of his senior management team. Representatives of 13 countries are



on the team. Two are from the United States and one from Canada in the Americas Region. There are none from Latin America or the Caribbean.

PAHO

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago has filled the second and third slots in her new administration. She has named Dr. Joxel Garcia, born in Puerto Rico and currently commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, to replace Dr. David Brandling-Bennett as Deputy Director. As Assistant Director, the position most recently held by Dr. Roses herself, she has appointed Dr. Carissa Etienne, of Dominica. Dr. Etienne took office on 3 July and Dr. Garcia will take office on 1 August. In the next edition of the Newsletter we will provide you with more detailed information on these high-level appointees.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MEMBERS

Yva R. Latortue (Haiti)

Where does America go?

Six months have already elapsed since the ceremonies in which the American nations joined to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the creation of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington. I am still elated by the manifestation of continental solidarity, the expression of the satisfaction generated by the successes reaped in the centennial fight for better health conditions in the Americas, which marked the event. Pan Americanism is not a dead word, but a living reality for those who participated in the meetings and festivities.

I personally enjoyed the opportunity to see again so many of my friends and colleagues with whom I have shared, during more than two decades, the pleasure of working together for one of the noblest purposes in life: to find ways of ensuring health.

The Pan American club is stronger. If the dream of Health for all in the Year 2000 has not been realized, the aspiration to it has become general and the road toward such goal seems clearer. Democracy is progressing, has invaded all of the American countries except for one or two. It has come a long way indeed. The roots of those bonds of solidarity and hope for a better future which link the now 34 American States plunge so deep in history that it is not very easy to recount them. For many historians, the first manifestation of the continental solidarity was the participation at the battle of Savannah GA in 1778 of a battal-

ion of some 800 emancipated black and mulatto officers and soldiers from the colonial army of Saint-Domingue alongside the American revolutionaries during their fight for independence.

But in that period, when the whole Continent was looking for a way out of close to 300 years of colonization, the figure of General Pierre Toussaint L'Ouverture was dominant. His unforgettable legacy resurfaced and reverberated during the month of April 2003 on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death at Fort de Joux, France. By leading against all odds the revolutionary movement which culminated in the abolition of slavery in Saint-Domingue and the creation of the second independent state in the Continent in 1804 (to be named Haiti), he truly opened the opportunity in the Americas for state-level cooperation in the pursuit of common objectives.

Such grandiose purpose seems to have been Toussaint's vocation. When the French colonial army under the command of this black general stopped the last attempt of the English to occupy Saint-Domingue by defeating British General Maitland on 31 August 1798 at Mole St-Nicolas, the ensuing treaty was the first agreement for peace concluded between (or in respect of) two countries of the Continent. According to that instrument, signed on behalf of France and England by Toussaint and Maitland: "No English troops whatsoever (from Jamaica or elsewhere) will attack the island of Saint-Domingue and no colonial French troops will attack the island of Jamaica." And so it has remained.

But the proclamation of the independence of Haiti by the companions and followers of Toussaint was to provide numerous opportunities, on an additional platform, for manifestation of solidarity and collaboration, between leaders possessed by the quest for freedom and common ambitions for social development, such as Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Francisco de Miranda, Alexandre Petion, and Simon Bolivar. The genuine response of those leaders to the profound needs and aspirations of their followers would constitute the real founding and the true beginning of Panamericanism.

Their relationship and glorious undertakings will be the subject of my next communication.

Teófilo Partida Godínez (Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico)

Greetings to all my retired friends from PAHO/WHO, wherever you are.



Standing: Luis Jorge Uribe, Irma de Partida, Teófila Partida, Roberto Unda
Seated: Guillermo Gosset, Rosalina de Uribe, Nady de Gosset, Elvia de Unda

Let me take this opportunity to salute Silvio and Ena Palacios for their letter (published in the February 2003 Newsletter), urging retired colleagues to join the AFSM, since it is always a pleasure to know where old friends are and how they are doing. I would also like to thank Silvio for the congratulations he sent to our group in Guadalajara, which, as he says, should serve as an example to encourage new members to join the Association in the future.

I am attaching a photo of the "Guadalajara Group," which accompanied us in the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary at a reunion organized by our five children, three of whom live in Guadalajara and two outside the country.

Let me also take this opportunity to express our sorrow at the loss of our dear friend Antonio Godoy, who died last December. May he rest in peace.

My appreciation to the Association for its efforts and warmest greetings on behalf of myself and my family.

Federico G. Varela (Bolivia)

I want to thank you for the certificate of recognition bestowed upon me, as one of the founding members of your Association, which arrived while I was away on a trip. I am particularly grateful because an initial idea that was first conceived by my wife Nelma, and later on transmitted to our common friend Helena Irwin, became a reality,

back in those days when we had just arrived from Brazil, as I was being transferred back to our PAHO Headquarters. Today, we can be proud of our Association as one of the leading ones among those of the international organizations.

May my wife and I wish you all success in the forthcoming years.

REMEMBRANCES:

Carlos Quirós Salinas (1916-2002)

by **Jaime Ayalde**

The February Newsletter sadly notes the passing of Carlos Quirós Salinas in Lima, Peru, last December. I met Carlos in the mid-1960s, during the administration of Fernando Belaúnde Terry (1963-1968), whose dream was to physically integrate Peru by constructing an ambitious highway system that included the "edge of the jungle." I remember that the dining room of the Presidential Palace had been turned into the command post for the work, with a mock-up of the system that occupied the entire banquet table. One of the priority problems facing the health sector was malaria, and to combat it, a tripartite plan of operations involving PAHO, UNICEF, and the Government was implemented throughout the country.

The national health team was headed by Javier Arias Stella, the Minister, while the technical activities were coordinated by Carlos, who was Director-General of Health. Carlos possessed an

in-depth knowledge of the country's health situation and was familiar with the virtues and limitations of the program, since in his younger days he had participated in the famous malarimetric surveys sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation in the Lurín Valley and in the clinical treatment of malaria patients.



Carlos Quiros Salinas

He was also one of the pioneers in the use of DDT in public health—first to control the typhus epidemic in the Peruvian highlands and then for malaria control in Chimbote in 1946. The number of malaria patients fell dramatically. In addition to tackling typhus, malaria, and other communicable diseases, Carlos worked to expand smallpox vaccination coverage, and to this end he promoted the development of a lyophilized (*freeze-dried*) vaccine that could be used under field conditions—a vaccine that was ultimately the foundation for an eradication campaign.

The Director-General was the highest technical authority in the Ministry. Carlos was highly qualified for that position, with a medical degree from the San Fernando School of Medicine (1943), a master's degree in public health from Harvard University in the United States (1949), and a doctorate in medicine from the University of San Marcos in Lima (1969). He was a physician with the Inter-American Cooperative Public Health Service (SCISP), endorsed in Point IV of the international development policy of U.S. President Truman, and he held several posts in the Ministry of Health. Carlos also had international experience, having served as an epidemiologist with the Pan American Health Organization in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In the area of research and education, Carlos was for many years linked with his alma mater, the University of San Marcos, where he was Chief Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Director of the Institute of Tropical Medicine, and a member of the Minister of Health's Advisory Committee. On his retirement, the University awarded him the title of Professor Emeritus. He was also a High Official in the Hipólito Unanue and Daniel A. Carrión Orders and a Commander of the Order of Merit for Distinguished Service.

Carlos was Chief of the Peruvian Delegation at six World Health Assemblies of WHO (Geneva, Switzerland) and seven Directing Councils of the Pan American Health Organization (Washington DC) and was a candidate for Director of PAHO in the 1966 elections.

In the period 1971-1976 Carlos rejoined PAHO/WHO as a Regional Consultant on Health Services, working in Washington on a project to integrate the malaria eradication program into these services, a time in which we again crossed paths. Making good use of his retirement, he was a guest professor at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Stanford University in California.

To conclude, I will turn to the time in which Carlos was a PAHO consultant in Argentina (1955-1960). On one occasion there was a botulism epidemic in the city of La Plata with several case fatalities, causing panic in the population. This led the Government of Argentina to call in an expert from the United States to study the case, since there was little experience in Argentina with this problem. For this purpose, Dr. Donald A. Henderson, a young epidemiologist from the CDC in Atlanta, arrived in Buenos Aires and made contact with PAHO, which served as his communication channel with the national authorities.

Dr. Henderson recounts that once his work in La Plata had ended, the Minister of Health invited him to spend the weekend at his vacation home, but having heard about an outbreak of smallpox in Chaco Province, Dr. Henderson requested a change in program to visit the area, since he had never seen a case of smallpox and the CDC was interested in the problem. The Minister made the necessary arrangements and asked PAHO to allow Dr. Quirós to accompany Dr. Henderson so that he could show him the cases. And so it was.

To make the trip, they first had to travel to Resistencia in a Pan American clipper, switching to a light plane in which a seat had to be removed so that Dr. Henderson could fly sitting on the floor—the only way he could fit into the plane. Carlos discussed the evolution of the lesions and the differential diagnosis, since there were patients with smallpox and patients with chickenpox in the same wards. The patients with one disease were exposed to the other and often had to be readmitted to the hospital. This was the first experience with smallpox for Dr. Henderson, who would later become head of the successful program for its global eradication.

D. A. Henderson recently wrote: "My memories [of Carlos Quirós] are as clear today as they were then. A rotund, friendly man, small in

stature, but whose keen intellect was obvious and whose integrity and willingness to speak about the world and its frailties, as he saw them, was (and is) unusual. I will always remember him as a true exemplar of the best international civil servants."

Carlos is survived by five children and 11 grandchildren. We wish to extend our condolences and express our solidarity with them and their entire family.

IN MEMORIAM

González, Antonio J.

11 January 2003

Santillan, Aída

19 March 2003

Rosselot, Jorge Vicuña

9 April 2003

Price, Hoyt Glenn

7 June 2003

Espinosa, Mario

9 July 2003

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AFSM would like to know about the needs of its members. We might not be able to solve all your problems, but we have many experts and resources that could be utilized. We might either help in some way or refer you to the right source.

We would also like to have your input to the Newsletter, either in the form of articles for publication or in comments on the content: What kinds of articles do you like? Are there some that should be eliminated? Are we missing something that should be included?

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