Editors' message: Eduardo Usunoff

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Eduardo Usunoff, an active member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), working for many years with the Hydrogeology Journal as reviewer, Associate Editor, and currently as the Abstract Translation Manager for Spanish, died on July 8, 2008, at the age of 54. Eduardo was a full Professor and Director of the Instituto de Hidrología de Llanuras (IHLLA) of the Universidad Nacional del Centro de la Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina, and full researcher of the Scientific Research Commission of Buenos Aires State, Argentina. He was also a member of other international associations such as the National Ground Water Association (NGWA), International Association for Environmental Hydrology (IAEH), Asociación Latinoamericana de Hidrología Subterránea para el Desarrollo (ALHSUD), International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), and Asociación Americana de Manejo Integrado de Cuencas Hidrográficas. From 1995 to 1999 Eduardo acted as Vice-president of the International Commission on Groundwater of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences. He also worked with Balkema

Publishers on a special issue of selected papers from the XXXIII Congress of IAH and VII Congress of ALHSUD, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 2002.

Besides his participation in associations and committees, Eduardo was above all a driving force for the Argentinean hydrogeology community since his return to Argentina in 1988, following completion of MSc and PhD degrees at the Hydrology and Water Resources Department, University of Arizona, Tucson, USA, under the supervision of Prof. Stanley Davis. Thereafter, he maintained strong links with well-known hydrogeologists such as Professors Emilio Custodio and Jesús Carrera from Spain, with whom he collaborated in several research projects.

As author of more than 200 national and international publications, his early research focused on multivariate analysis and hydrochemistry. In recent years, he developed a holistic vision of water resources management, both for groundwater and surface water. This vision involved him in countless scientific committees and national agencies from Argentina and Latin America as an advisor and reviewer of scientific work and research proposals.

Besides his academic and research activities, Eduardo will also be remembered for his deep passion for music. He is survived by his wife and four children. The Argentinean and worldwide hydrogeology communities will miss his tireless efforts to disseminate the hydrogeological sciences among younger generations (Fig. 1).

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Leticia Rodríguez (Associate Editor) and Luis Sebastián Vives (former Associate Editor) present this article on behalf of the Argentinean Chapter of IAH

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Fig. 1 Eduardo Usunoff on May 22, 2008 during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Scientific Research Commission of Buenos Aires State, which took place at the Gonnet Technological Campus. Eduardo was one of the three invited speakers. His talk was “Water: a renewable resource worthy of research”