

Obituary: Professor Carlos da Silva Lacaz 1915–2002



Carlos da Silva Lacaz, MD, Professor Emeritus and former Director of the Faculty of Medicine of the São Paulo University (FMUSP) and former Director of the Tropical Medicine Institute of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil passed away on 23th April, 2002, at the age of 87. He was born on 19th September 1915 at Guaratingueta, São Paulo State.

Prof. Lacaz studied Medicine in São Paulo. He was the first chairman of the Microbiology and Immunology Department at the University of São Paulo (1953).

He was appointed Honoris Causa Professor by the Federal University of Ceará (Brazil) and the National University of Northeastern Argentina. He was also ex-Secretary of São Paulo Municipality (Health De-

partment), the Brazilian Society of Tropical Medicine, and the Brazilian Society of Allergy and Immunopathology.

Prof. Lacaz's activities in promoting medical mycology culminated in founding the Tropical Medicine Institute of São Paulo, bringing together the mycologists of different parts of the country.

In addition to more than 500 papers in scientific journals, Prof. Lacaz's publications include 46 books, covering his interests in fungal immunology, epidemiology and diagnostics, and clinical mycoses and their therapy. Apart from his scientific studies and publications, one book needs special mention: "MICOLOGIA MÉDICA". This text book, enriched with many informative figures, was a highly estimated tool for various generations of mycologists in South America, mainly in Brazil. Before his death, Prof. Lacaz finished the review of the 9th edition of this book.

Prof. Lacaz was a broad-based Infectologist of internationally well recognized competence reflected by excellent teaching, accurate research and dedicated care of his patients. His special interest was addressed to medical mycology. He was a profoundly skilled expert in all facets of medical mycology and was in intense contact with leading mycologists all over the world.

His activities as an academic teacher require recognition as well. His university lectures on medical microbiology for medical students included medical mycology of the highest possible quality. This was unique to Brazil, at a time when mycology was still restricted to dermatology. He oversaw numerous students completing thesis studies and guests working with mycology objectives. His activity in postgraduate specialized training of microbiologists, clinicians, and technicians in high-level medical mycology are remembered by all participants.

Prof. Lacaz was much in demand as a speaker and convenor of congresses and specialized symposia due

* Published in 2002.

to his outstanding reputation in the field of medical mycology. His fundamental expert knowledge as well as his evaluating competence made him an ideal member of various consulting teams of the World Health Organization.

Prof. Lacaz was a person of great strength of character who was devoted to the Faculty of Medicine and the Tropical Medicine Institute with the utmost enthusiasm and loyalty. He worked extremely hard and had the distinction rare among scientists of knowing that the fruits of this research have saved the lives of many patients.

In recognition of his contribution to medical mycology, Prof. Lacaz received many honors. Among them, he received honoring medal from ISHAM, during the ISHAM International Meeting, held in Barcelona, 1988.

He was a pioneer of medical mycology and an exemplary great character. He is remembered fondly by

his many international colleagues, for his warmth, pervasive sense of humor and attentiveness to friends, and his enjoyment of the performing arts and fine arts. The field of mycology particularly will miss his dedication, contributions and collegiality. He will be remembered by everybody who had the good fortune to have learnt from him. All his friends and disciples express their deep gratitude and sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

Zoilo Pires de Camargo, Ph.D.

Vice-President of ISHAM

Professor of the Federal University of São Paulo

Marcello Franco, M.D.

Prof. Emeritus Botucatu Medical School – Brazil

Vice-President for South America International
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