

By Marcus Teixeira

Professor Bodo Wanke, emeritus researcher at the Evandro Chagas National Institute of Infectious Diseases (INI), Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Laboratory of Mycology, and coordinator of the National Reference Laboratory for Systemic Mycoses (CGLAB/SVS/MS), passed away from complications of COVID-19 on July 22, 2021. Born in 1941 in the Brazilian State of Espírito Santo, he graduated in Medicine at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) and obtained his master and doctorate degrees in Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, also at UFRJ. In 1980 Dr. Wanke founded the Laboratory of Mycology at INI, Rio de Janeiro, where he also acted as permanent professor of the Stricto Sensu Graduate Program in Clinical Research in Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Wanke's research focused on understanding the host and the pathogen, while also studying environmental associations, what is currently known as the One Health approach. As an expert in the diagnosis of mycoses, he devoted more than 40 years to the study of endemic mycoses in Brazil, mainly coccidioidomycosis, paracoccidioidomycosis, histoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, and sporotrichosis. A research program aimed to detect and monitor coccidioidomycosis microepidemics in armadillo hunters in the State of Piauí (Brazil), and his report of the first and only outbreak of paracoccidioidomycosis so far described (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) stand as two milestones of his brilliant scientific career. More than 160 peer-reviewed publications and 53 book chapter are testimonies of his devotion to medical mycology, for which he was called to serve on the editorial board of several journals, among them PloS Neglected Diseases and Mycopathologia.

He was the recipient of numerous awards in Brazil and abroad, for his excellent teaching and contributions to the field of Medical Mycology. He was an Honorary Member of the Brazilian National Academy of Medicine (ANM) and of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM). His devotion to the training of young people and transmitting his vast knowledge of Medical Mycology, built around him a notable and exemplary leadership. Proof of this are the dozens of undergraduates, master and doctoral students, an entire generation of medical mycologists in Brazil who give credit to Dr. Wanke's outstanding and influential mentorship.

For over 25 years he travelled intensively through several counties in the semi-arid and Cerrado ecoregions of the Brazilian State of Piauí, following track of endemic mycoses in that region. This work allowed him to become highly knowledgeable of the Piauí landscape, people and traditions, so much that the local authorities deservedly granted him the title of citizen of Piauí, a tribute that greatly honored him.

Dr. Wanke was an easy going character, one of his many memorable attributes. During his free time, he enjoyed reading books, traveling and spending time with family and friends. Bodo is survived by his wife and research collaborator Márcia Lazéra, daughter Bruna and son Peter. To them our deepest condolences. Bodo will be sorely missed by the mycological community of Brazil and beyond.



Obituario

María Cristina Díaz Jarabrán

16 de Junio de 1947 – 24 de Julio de 2021

Con profundo dolor comunicamos el sensible fallecimiento de nuestra amiga y compañera de tantas jornadas dedicadas a la enseñanza de la Micología en Chile.

María Cristina obtuvo su título profesional de Tecnólogo Médico en la Universidad de Chile el 5 de Mayo de 1970. Se dedicó con gran esmero a la docencia de pregrado y posteriormente a la de postgrado como Profesor Asociado en el Instituto de Ciencias Biomédicas de la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Chile.

Fue la referente en micología de múltiples generaciones de Tecnólogos Médicos y de médicos tanto Infectólogos, como los que se dedican al Laboratorio Clínico y al de Microbiología.

Fue la Directora del Curso de Postgrado de Micología Médica de la Universidad de Chile, que se realizaba cada 2 años desde hace más de dos décadas. Dicho curso era obligatorio para los médicos becados de Infectología y Microbiología de todas las Universidades de Chile. En el participaban Profesores invitados de diversas universidades de nuestro país y de otros países como Argentina y Brasil. El último curso lo realizó el año 2020. También participó en múltiples trabajos de investigación, que concluyeron con numerosas publicaciones científicas en Chile y el extranjero.

María Cristina, te extrañaremos mucho y gracias por toda tu generosa entrega a la docencia de la micología.

Luis Thompson MD
Profesor Titular
Universidad del Desarrollo
Clínica Alemana
Santiago-Chile

