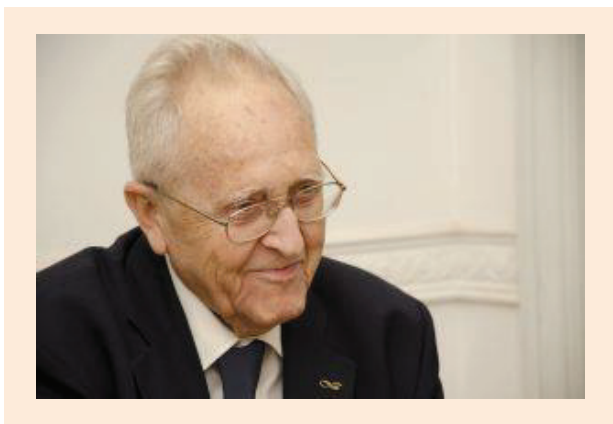


IN MEMORIAM
HORACIO G. PONTIS
(1928-2019)



Horacio Guillermo Pontis, born in Mendoza (1928), graduated in chemistry and obtained the Ph.D (1953; Dir.: V.Deulofeu) from the University of Buenos Aires. After working for three years with Dr Luis F. Leloir -where he approached to carbohydrate metabolism- he stayed successively at King College (UK), Durham University (UK) and finally at Karolinska Institutet and University of Stockholm -where his attention turned to enzymology studies. After returning to Leloir's lab (1960), he embarked on plant biochemistry studies. In his search for clues about fructans, Dr. Pontis' lab synthesized not only UDP-fructose but also fructose-2-phosphate, which two decades later cleared the way for the chemical synthesis of fructose-2,6-bisphosphate (a key glycolysis modulator).

From 1968 to 1977, he was the director of Dept. of Biology - Fundación Bariloche. In Nov.1971, Bariloche hosted the SAIB Annual Meeting, being elected Dr. Pontis the President of SAIB (1972).

This reunion was followed by the Symposium "*Biochemistry of the glycosidic linkage*" with the presence of four Nobel Prizes (C.Cori (1947); G.

Cori(1947); F.Lynen (1964); L.F.Leloir, (1970). However, his "*mi mejor experimento y experiencia de formación*" came to a halt-in when the Bariloche lab was closed (1977).

In 1979, Dr. Pontis moved to Mar del Plata where over time his outstanding capacity for innovation launched Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas (IIB) - U.N.Mar del Plata, Fundación de Investigaciones Científicas (FIBA) and, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas (CIB).

In any site, Dr. Pontis maintained active research groups that trained graduate and post-graduate students generating a steady flow of important contributions to plant biochemistry. The research international community acknowledged these accomplishments, such as American Society of Plant Biologists that named him Correspondent Member. In his scientific activities, Dr. Pontis has been member of the National Research Council of Argentina (1961; CONICET), and Biochemistry Professor -at the UBA and at Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata. The former and the later institutions recognized his academic performance designating him Emeritus Investigator and Emeritus Professor, respectively.

Dr. Pontis' story rose from limited beginnings - in Deulofeu's and Leloir's labs- to international scientific prestige. In this context, the challenge to overcome adversity during shameful periods in Argentine history honors not only his willingness but also his enthusiasm.

Ricardo Wolosiuk