

Dear Cholinergikers,

Today we mourn the loss of Dr. (MD, PhD) Edson Xavier de Albuquerque, one of the well-known members of our community who passed away after a short cardiac crisis. In every professional community, there are those few special figures that are looked up to for their professional opinion and thoughts, and Edson was certainly one of those figures for all of us in the cholinergic field. His knowledge and understanding were unmatched, and were always accompanied by a warm heart and excitement about science which were contagious. Prof. Edna Ferreira, his wife and research companion for many years, contributed to this research in every topic he explored.

Born in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil, Edson earned his M.D. from the Univ. of Pernambuco in 1959, and his Ph.D. *summa cum laude* in Physiology and Pharmacology from the "Escola Paulista de Medicina" in São Paulo, Brazil in 1962. Postdoctoral studies followed at Tulane University, at the Univ. Illinois with Prof. Klaus Unna, at the Univ. of Lund (Sweden) with Dr. Stephen Thesleff, at the Karolinska Inst. in Stockholm with Dr. David Ottoson, and at Umea with Dr. Ebba Cedergren. In 1968, he became a Buswell Fellow at the State University of New York in Buffalo, where he joined Sir John Eccles and Profs. Eric Barnard and David Triggle. There, he studied neuromuscular transmission and delineated the properties of toxins used as tools for studying the function of nicotinic receptors in the neuromuscular junction. By 1972, he was promoted to Professor, becoming Acting Chair of Pharmacology in 1973. In 1974, Edson became Professor & Chair of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics at the University of Maryland's School of Medicine, where he studied the electrophysiology of synaptic transmission and developed the department to an internationally recognized level.

Dr. Albuquerque was a leader in the fields of neuropharmacology and neurotoxicology. His groundbreaking contributions to the understanding of the pathophysiology of neurological disorders and the development of treatments against the toxic effects of organophosphorus poisons led to many awards, including the Order of the Grand Cross and the Rio Branco Award from Brazil, the Friedrich Merz Visiting Professorship from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Germany, the Jacob Javits Neuroscience Research Award from the US NIH, and the Otto Kraymer Award from the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. According to Mordecai P. Blaustein, M.D., Professor of Physiology & Medicine Department of Physiology, UMSOM, "Edson was an exceptional experimenter, with a wonderful touch for performing electrophysiological experiments. Pubmed lists nearly 350 articles by Edson in top-notch journals. Edson also had a major impact on the medical school, where he helped to change the tone of the school which, until the late 1970's/early 1980's, had only very limited research in most of the clinical departments."

The University of Maryland School of Medicine will be holding **a memorial service for Dr. Albuquerque on August 2, 2018 at 4:30pm in Leadership Hall, with a reception to follow in the Atrium.** We as well will raise Edson's memory for others to know and appreciate his legacy.

With warm regards to Edna and his children,

Mona