

Edwaldo E. Camargo, MD 1938–2016

Edwaldo Eduardo Camargo, MD, an international leader widely recognized for his efforts in establishing nuclear medicine in Brazil and Latin America, died on March 4. He was born on May 28, 1938, in Guaxupé, Brazil. He earned his medical degree in 1964 from the University of São Paulo (Brazil), where he was among the first group of students to attend classes in biophysics and nuclear medicine. At the University of São Paulo he completed an internal medicine residency and defended his thesis on renal scintigraphy in 1971. He became a fellow in nuclear medicine at the Johns Hopkins University (JHU) under Henry N. Wagner, Jr., MD, in 1973. Dr. Camargo rose through the ranks to become an assistant professor and clinical director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at JHU.

Dr. Camargo returned to Brazil in 1982 as head of the Nuclear Medicine Division of the University of São Paulo, where he established the country's first nuclear medicine residency program. He also introduced cardiovascular nuclear medicine at the Instituto do Coração of the University of São Paulo. Radioisotopes were not easily accessible at that time in Brazil, and Dr. Camargo developed processes at the University of São Paulo for preparation and nationwide distribution of radioisotopes, especially ^{201}Tl and ^{67}Ga . He also implemented a radiometric quantitative technique from JHU for rapid diagnosis of mycobacterium and made it commercially available throughout Brazil.

In 1988 Dr. Camargo returned to JHU as associate professor and associate director of the Department of Radiology and once again served as clinical director of the Division of Nuclear Medicine. In 1991 he returned to Brazil as head of the Department of Radiology at the Campinas State University (UNICAMP), where he



installed SPECT cameras, built an in vitro laboratory, and established the second nuclear medicine residency program in Brazil. In 1993, at the 15th annual meeting of the Brazilian Nuclear Medicine Society, he oversaw the country's first nuclear medicine image transmission and subsequently introduced routine imaging transmission to other cities and states. In 1999 the first ^{18}F -FDG image in Brazil was acquired at UNICAMP on a dual-head high-energy SPECT camera. Dr. Camargo in 2002 became head of the Nuclear Medicine Department at the Sírio-Libanês Hospital in São Paulo, where the first ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT image in Latin America was acquired.

Dr. Camargo published more than 35 book chapters, 160 articles, and 368 abstracts and authored or coauthored more than 500 conference presentations. His achievements were recognized with numerous scientific and research awards. He served as president of the Brazilian Society of Nuclear Medicine (1992–1996) and of the Latin American Society of Nuclear Medicine (1996–1997). He trained more than 120 residents (in both the United States and Brazil) and was on the editorial boards of many journals, including *The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*.

At the ceremony marking his retirement from UNICAMP, Dr. Camargo said, "I do not deserve this homage. I only did what had to be done." He is survived by his wife, Elba Neisa Sá de Camargo, and children: Elba Cristina, Eduardo Felipe, and Érica Cristina.

Homer Macapinlac, MD
Houston, TX
Steven M. Larson, MD
New York, NY