



OBITUARY

Prof. Dr. Luis J. Núñez-Vergara

On July 2, 1992 the Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacéuticas of the Universidad de Chile suffered a strong fire that completely destroyed its facilities and equipment of the Olivos campus, however thanks to the thrust of their community was reconstructed and reequipped. Recently, on October 25, 2013 the Faculty was shaken again by a great tragedy, which this time pointed directly to the heart of our community. It was the sudden and unexpected death of our Dean Prof. Dr. Luis J. Núñez-Vergara. Unfortunately this tragedy cannot be surpassed as was the previous fire and will spend many years for cicatrize the injury that caused its death.

The step of Prof. Núñez-Vergara through this life left a great imprint that deeply impact not only in the community of the University of Chile, but that in the national and international scientific community.

He had born in the city of Los Angeles in the south of Chile, on April 7, 1948. He developed his basic schooling at the Liceo Alemán del Verbo Divino in his hometown, and finished high school at the Internado Nacional Barros Arana in Santiago, Chile. He studied at the Universidad de Concepción and Universidad de Chile obtaining the title of Pharmaceutical Chemist from the last University on 1971. Later he obtained a Doctorate in Chemistry from the Universidad de Huelva, Spain in 2008.

Professor was hired as academic in the Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacéuticas of the Universidad de Chile from 1971. He developed its teaching in the area of Pharmacology and for more than 40 years he taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses. In addition to the specific topics of the courses he normally talks about the “human and divine” causing great admiration in their students, where many of them chose him as their advisor for the thesis work.

He was an extraordinary productive researcher reaching a record of more than 230 ISI publications. According to the Web of Science Categories his research was developed in the areas of ELECTROCHEMISTRY, ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY, MULTIDISCIPLINARY CHEMISTRY,

PHARMACOLOGY & PHARMACY, BIOCHEMISTRY & MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, ORGANIC CHEMISTRY, MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY, FOOD SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY, BIOPHYSICS, PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY, and TOXICOLOGY and so on. Also he was author of many national and international research projects and advisor of several undergraduate and PhD thesis. Several of his undergraduate and graduate thesis students are part of the academic staff of different Chilean Universities. He was also visiting professor at Free University of Brussels, Córdoba University, Spain, Sevilla University, Spain and Huelva University, Spain. He was a regular participant in the Meetings of the Sociedad Chilena de Química, International Society of Electrochemistry, Electrochemical Society, Bioelectrochemical Society, Sociedad Iberoamericana de Electroquímica, inter alia.

He was promoted to the highest rank of full professor at the Universidad de Chile in 1992. For 1998 he was elected Dean of the Facultad de Ciencias Químicas y Farmacéuticas of the Universidad de Chile, being re-elected twice for other four-year terms. Consequently, he served as Dean between 1998-2013 without leaving their teaching and research activities, which undoubtedly were the passion of his life. If we would synthesize his great work as Dean would select the creation of the Ph.D. in Pharmacology and unification of the Faculty in the new building of Santos Dumont, now bearing his name.

Professor Luis J. Núñez-Vergara was a great teacher, a great researcher, a great dean, a great leader, a great friend, but above all he was a great and warm human.

Professor Núñez-Vergara is survived by his wife Arlette and his son Cristian.

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