Correspondence

In Memoriam: Julio H. Garcia

Our medical community was deeply saddened by the untimely death of an esteemed neuroscientist and colleague, Dr. Julio H. Garcia, November 6, 1998. He was stricken at the age of 65, the very zenith of his career, by a berry aneurysm that was not amenable to surgical repair.

Julio was a native of Colombia, South America, where he was graduated from the National University of Bogota. He completed his postdoctoral training in pathology and neuropathology at the Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn, New York. He served with distinction on the faculties of the Medical College of Virginia, University of Tennessee, Baylor College of Medicine, University of Maryland, University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. He held professorships at the Medical College of Ohio and Case Western Reserve University.

His professional career was dedicated to research in neuropathology, concentrating on neurovascular diseases, and to teaching a comprehensive understanding of neurological diseases for medical practitioners of all specialties. His studies of experimentally induced cerebral infarction had in recent years concentrated on the role of microvasculature in the pathogenesis of neuronal injury and death. New avenues for therapy were opened that may well benefit humanity in the not-too-distant future. Our profession's esteem for his work is evidenced by his appointments to numerous editorial boards, invitations to submit review articles and book chapters, service on research review committees, national and inter-

national invitations to lecture, and successful competition for research funding. Teaching contributions during his career were directed to medical students early in their education, to whom he presented lucidly the concepts of neurological diseases that every physician, regardless of specialty, should know. For this effort he was the very deserving recipient of many teaching awards. He also was highly respected for his teaching of neurological diseases to residents and specialists. The emphasis in his teaching was always an understanding of the whole person afflicted by a disease.

Those of us who were privileged to know him personally and who worked with him admired his intelligence, dedication, and abilities in research and education. He also was a colleague and friend of a rather unique type. His life expressed a personal dedication to his fellow man, reflecting a wonderful philosophy he felt dearly but rarely directly discussed; he lived it. To his friends, he expressed his affection by corresponding or visiting when any special occasion arose and by devoting his attention to our problems and celebrations.

All of us in the medical community express our deepest sympathy to Julio's loving wife, Irene, and his sons, David and Lawrence. We shall all miss him greatly but remain eternally thankful for the opportunity to have known him.

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