

Obituaries

Clinical Neurophysiology has lost two of its founder people who are loved and respected by all who know them and many who do not, but have still been influenced by their lives. We pay tribute to the lives of these two pioneers, and give our condolences to their families and colleagues.

Nelly Chiofalo, MD (1929–2008)



Dr. Nelly Chiofalo passed away in Santiago, Chile, on April 18th, 2008. She was one of the founders of the Latin American Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology and very prominent in the development of clinical neurophysiology in South and Central America.

Professor Chiofalo was born on March 24, 1929 in Mendoza, Argentina, attending medical school at the National University of Córdoba, obtaining her medical degree in 1954. After attending a conference given by Professor

Alfonso Asenjo in Buenos Aires, she moved to Santiago, Chile, where she was appointed to the Instituto de Neurocirugía, founded by Dr. Asenjo, some years earlier. Here, she was trained in Neurology and Electroencephalography, working close to Professor Carlos Villavicencio. Dr. Chiofalo married to Dr. Luciano Basauri, a young and prominent neurosurgeon. She moved for two years to Harvard to complete her studies on EEG with Professor Reginald G. Bickford. Dr. Chiofalo returned to Chile, and remained at the Instituto de Neurocirugía for many years developing a productive scientific and clinical career.

Dr. Chiofalo participated in several studies on clinical neurophysiology at the Instituto de Neurocirugía. She developed the technique of corticography in patients with epilepsy and brain tumors. In the mid 1970s, interested in Stereo EEG, Dr. Chiofalo spent 6 months with Professor Bancaud, in Paris. Soon after, a number of neurosurgeons and neurologists started the programme of epilepsy surgery in Chile. In this context she developed her well known work on EEG in Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

In the 1980s, with the aid of Professor J. Kiffin Penry, she installed the first video EEG monitoring system in Chile, being able to differentiate pseudoseizures from epileptic fits. She was also interested in the epidemiology of epilepsy, being the first to report on the prevalence of epilepsy in Chile. Nelly was president of the Chilean League against epilepsy between 1982 and 1986 and appointed as ambassador by the International League Against Epilepsy, traveling all over Latin America.

Her academic interests led the foundation of the Chilean Society of Clinical Neurophysiology. In this and other societies she worked breathlessly to teach clinical neurophysiology to technicians, residents and neurologists, promoting many meetings around Latin America, the Caribbean and the world. She always promoted scholarships for young neurophysiologist to travel and present their work in Latin America, or elsewhere. In one of these meetings, the Latin America Congress in Neurophysiology, Guatemala 1995,

she co-founded the Latin American Chapter of the International Federation of Clinical Neurophysiology.

The professional subjects, in whom Dr. Chiofalo expressed interest, were many. As a person, she was distinguished by her strength to achieve her goals and particularly by the ability to take excellent care, not only of the scientific aspect of the meetings she organized, but also for all the minor details that made her to be an outstanding host with her warmth, grace and charm.

Dr. Chiofalo's loss occurred only a few months after her husband, leaving two sons, Cristián and Rodrigo, and eight grandchildren. Chilean and Latin American neurophysiology community will always remember her for all the effort given to develop clinical neurophysiology, expand the knowledge around Latin America, and for establishing

the roots for the future development of these topics in this part of the world. We will always remember her.

Mario Campero

*Sociedad Chilena de Neurofisiología Clínica,
Clínica Alemana-Universidad del Desarrollo,
Instituto de Ciencias Manquehue Norte 1410 piso 10,
Santiago, Chile*

Tel.: +56 2 2101063

E-mail address: mcampero@med.uchile.cl

Oswaldo Olivares

Av. Perez Valenzuela 1572, Santiago, Chile

doi:10.1016/j.clinph.2008.05.030