



Dr. Horacio Eugenio Cingolani

Dr. Cingolani was born in Las Flores, Buenos Aires, on the 25th of November, 1934. At a young age he moved to the city of La Plata to begin his medical studies, graduating as Doctor of Medicine in 1961. In 1964 he obtained an international scholarship to work at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), more specifically in the prestigious laboratory of Dr. Stanley Sarnoff. On his return to Argentina in 1966, he joined the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the School of Medicine of the National University of La Plata, where he did all his Scientific and Academic career, reaching the position of Associate Professor in 1970 and Full Professor in 1972. In 2009 he became Professor Emeritus at the National University of La Plata. At the same time he developed a successful career in CONICET where he was appointed Senior Researcher in 1981. If we just consider the different positions and assignments accomplished, one could conclude that his career was simply “brilliant”; however, those of us who have had the opportunity of meeting and living with him for many years know that his greatest success was not the titles or positions reached. His greatest achievement was, undoubtedly, the generation of new knowledge in different areas of Cardiovascular Physiology and Pathophysiology, moved by his passion for scientific research. He vehemently defended the importance of knowing pathophysiology, which he defined as “the poetry of medicine”, as a fundamental tool in cardiologists’ training, and he also struggled to integrate basic and applied research and prevent their being two separate isolated compartments. He insisted that the best is to achieve the tripod: Assistance - Teaching - Research concept that was widely shared by his close friend and colleague of many years, Dr. Carlos Bertolasi. From an interview made in 2009 by a leading national newspaper, in the opportunity of receiving the Bernardo Houssay Lifetime Achievement Award, the most important scien-

tific distinction of our country, I quote the following paragraphs that define Cingolani himself “. ... we are basic researchers, we do not pursue immediate application, utility and commercialism. We have been taught that if we do it right, if it is excellent, it will have its application in the future. For that we must believe in what we do ... “and ended that interview quoting Julius Comroe:”In medicine, two-thirds of the greatest contributions were done by those who did not intend to solve immediate practical problems, only seeking the truth of an unknown mechanism.” In 1976 he creates the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the School of Medicine of the National University of La Plata, where I had the honor and privilege of working under his leadership for many years. There, I became deeply acquainted with him. Of a hard, tough temper, sometimes perhaps excessively, but at the same time noble and loyal with his principles and convictions, always concerned for his people to have a scholarship or teaching position that would allow them to work; and thus, unselfishly, he contributed to the formation of several generations of scholars and researchers. He first set the hardest standards for himself, which for those of us who were training was a very strong and positive message. Unfortunately, on March 18th of this year, that tireless and exceptional life ended. It will not be easy to replace him in all his magnitude, especially because his life was spent with human and professional values that today, for different reasons, that it is irrelevant to discuss, are increasingly difficult to find. I cannot conclude, without expressing my respect, appreciation and affection for whom has been the motivating example of several generations of basic or clinical cardiovascular researchers, and that today, some of us try to continue with his example.

Prof. Dr. Ricardo J. Gelpi^{MTSAC}
School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires