



TRIBUTE TO A CHAMPION: *Ciro de Quadros*

Ciro was a Brazilian Pediatrician that left his country very early, on the seventies to build up an outstanding career as a leader in WHO. He was a champion in immunization and among his many major achievements was the strategy that led to the virtual eradication of Polio in Latin America. Although he was a legend in Brazil I only got to meet him face to face in 2004, when he was invited to join us at the International Pediatric Association. *Ciro* chaired our Technical Advisory Group in Immunization, working closely with our Past President Prof. Adenike Grange. Recently, on 2013, we had the opportunity to work together in Nepal in a workshop to empower National Pediatric Societies in developing countries to initiate or to boost local immunization programs. It is sad to learn from his passing away but, ultimately we all shall die. Most important is how we spend our lives. *Ciro* devoted his to a passionate struggle for reducing the burden of disease and improving health worldwide. We honor him as one of the most important players in Global Child Health, an example to be followed and a good friend. We'll miss him.

Sergio Cabral
Immediate Past President of the IPA

In January, 2011, *Ciro* and I were appointed as co-chairs of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (TAGI) by Sergio Cabral who was then (2010-2013) the President of the International Paediatric Association (IPA). I was at that time serving as the IPA representative on GAVI's Steering Committee of Civil Societies' Organisations on Immunisation. I would have felt intimidated by *Ciro's* towering presence as co-chair on TAGI, but for his humble acceptance of the partnership. In his characteristic supportive manner, he offered to turn what was possibly one of the least profile-enhancing position for him into a visible and productive partnership. We shared the passion and the mission to keep IPA in the limelight as an organisation that would add value to the global advocacy effort in immunisation. We were therefore able with the support of SABIN to mobilise paediatricians at regional and country levels in the South Pacific and sub-Saharan African regions, to take up their role as co-advocates and Champions for immunisation in their respective countries. This was accomplished through his sponsorship of regional meetings of paediatricians with country immunisation and public health directors in Rome, Nepal and in Ghana, with the co-sponsorship of global partners such as WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, SABIN, MRI and others. With his encouragement, the IPA developed a strategic plan to support GVAP and especially the eradication of Measles and Rubella as designed by the WHO. This initiative contributed immensely to the support that IPA subsequently received from the global partners in the conduct of its pre-Congress workshop on immunisation in Melbourne, Australia in August, 2013. I shall be eternally grateful to him for making it possible for me to lead successfully the implementation of our 3-year strategic plan for this initiative. I cannot forget how proud I felt to serve as his co-chair in Uruguay, Nepal, Tanzania, Ghana and Australia. Although my interaction with him lasted for only a short period, the memory of his genuine friendship and mentorship will stay with me for the rest of my life. *Ciro's* philosophy in life is partly illustrated in the following concluding response in the interview that was reported in *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2014;92:236-237. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2471/BLT.14.030414>

Q: Is there anything you would have done differently?

A: Nothing. I am so happy to have participated in so many great initiatives with such fantastic people, it was a fantastic ride that I had until now.

That was *Ciro*, a renowned public health expert, a committed global health advocate and a great people's man in both developed and developing countries! We shall miss him dearly.

Adenike Grange