



Alexandre Afrânio Peixoto

(Rio de Janeiro, 21st January 1963 – Mar de Espanha-MG, 10th February 2013)



With 50 years old, Alexandre Afrânio Peixoto was at the height of his intellectual activity at the forefront of the research on genetics of insects in the Institute Oswaldo Cruz (IOC/Fiocruz). As Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of Insects, Peixoto led studies on the behavioral aspects of vectors to tropical diseases, as Leishmaniasis, Malaria, Dengue Fever, and Yellow Fever. In parallel, he coordinated the Post-Graduate Strictu-sensu Program on Molecular and Cellular Biology at IOC, leading to the formation of MSc and PhD students in six lines of research. He passed away on February 10th, in a tragic accident in the city of Itaipava, Rio de Janeiro. Accompanying a friend, Alexandre went down a river next to the Mar de Espanha (Sea of Spain) on a canoe, a practice similar to rafting, when the boat collided with a rock and capsized, leaving him trapped under a waterfall. For the scientific community, Alexandre leaves a legacy of more than 70 articles, 18 Masters of Sc and 14 PhD students formed under his orientation. The 16 years of exclusive dedication to the IOC had guaranteed him countless admirers, amongst pupils and partners of research, who joined his wife and two children in the moan of his early departure.

Described as having a good nature and being generous, Alexandre graduated in Ecology at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) (Federal University of Rio De Janeiro), with Master Degree in Biological Sciences, PhD in Genetics for the University of Leicester, in the United Kingdom, and Post Doctorate for the Brandeis University, in the United States. He had also the title of Researcher Level 1A, and Head of the research group on Molecular Genetics of the Behavior in Insects to the Conselho Nacional de Pesquisa (CNPq - National Board of Research (CNPq), in addition to having received international recognition through the editions 2002 and 2007 of the International Program of Academic Research of the Medical Institute Howard Hughes. Reviewer of more than a set of ten scientific

journals, including Plos One and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, he was also member of the Publishing Advice of the Journal Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz (Memories of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute).