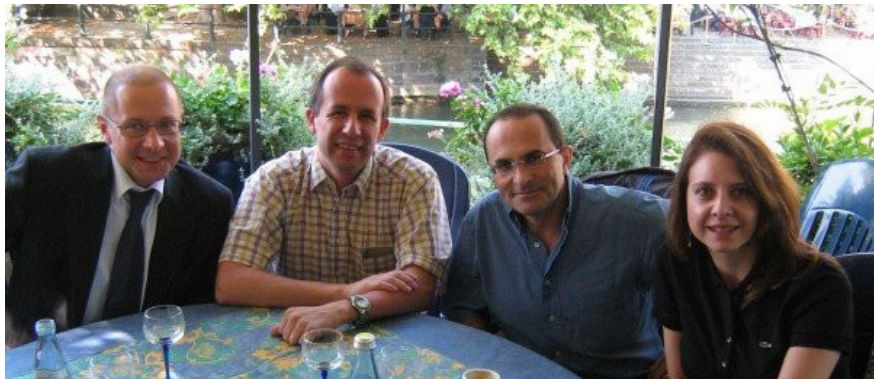


XVth International *Toxoplasma* Congress

In memoriam

Professor Ermanno Candolfi (1957-2019)

By Jorge Gomez- Marin



The collaborative group Strasbourg- Quindio, from left to right: Tristan Bourcier (ophthalmologist); Jorge Gomez Marin (parasitologist); Ermanno Candolfi *In memoriam* (parasitologist); Alejandra de la Torre (ophthalmologist)

This congress is dedicated to the memory of Professor Ermanno Candolfi, passed away in 18th May 2019 in Strasbourg (France). Professor Candolfi was an enthusiastic participant in previous versions of this International Congress. I met him at the IXth version in Montana and this was the start point for a fruitful collaboration between the “Université de Strasbourg” and the “Universidad del Quindio”, with many projects, joint Master and Doctoral thesis and breakthrough papers in the field of ocular toxoplasmosis. Professor Candolfi contributed importantly to the understanding of the pathogenesis of human ocular toxoplasmosis and he was one of the rare physicians that participated at the International *Toxoplasma* Congress. We share with him the vision that to find innovative solutions for human toxoplasmosis it is necessary to deep into the basic biology, biochemistry and genomics of the parasite. The essential link between basic and applied science through a constant flow of ideas, between the clinical observations and the basic science discoveries was his *leitmotiv* in his career. This passion became of him a leader into the University Hospital of Strasbourg and lead task were recommended to him, including the renewal and modernization of all the clinical laboratory of the Hospital. Its generosity was recognized for all who approach him. I learn about its disease during the Tomar Congress and its death oc-

curred few weeks before opening of present congress. Its last months were dedicated to the artistic photography, inspired on the common elements surrounded us, he leaves us a series of beautiful pictures as example of fine sensitivity and attention to details, that was also key in its research work.

This congress rends tribute to this physician, parasitologist and researcher, that left exemplary and definitive scientific contributions in our field.

Acknowledgments: I want to acknowledge all of the people that believe in the project of one international *Toxoplasma* Congress in Colombia. To host this congress is an unique opportunity to inspire and to promote new vocations for research in parasitology for a number of young Colombian biologists, chemist and medical students from the universities of Quindio, Tecnologica de Pereira, Tolima, Nacional de Colombia, Autonoma de Manizales and Surcolombiana. Thanks to the ACIN team: Sonia Guerrero, Yehimi Ibarra, Margoth Coba, in the Universidad del Quindio to Johana Burbano and to the students of GEPAMOL that checked all the abstract book (Monica Vargas, Juan David Hernandez and Juan Camilo Arenas García). Thank also to the blind reviewers for its contribution.