Residência Pediátrica
Publicação Oficial da Sociedade Brasileira de Pediatria
ISSN-Online: 2236-6814

Submitted on: 10/06/2019
Approved on: 10/07/2019

EDITORIAL

In memory of Dr. Ludma, a true pioneer

Dr. Ludma Trotta Dallalana died at the age of 98, in October of 2019. I first met her more than 30 years ago, at the opening session of the Committee for Diseases of the Respiratory Apparatus of the Rio de Janeiro Society of Pediatrics (SOPERJ). At the time, the group had its meetings at the Fernandes Figueira National Woman, Child, and Adolescent Health Institute (IFF). Dr. Ludma was a beacon at IFF, where she opened the first referral center for cystic fibrosis in Rio de Janeiro. She had been in touch with one of the developers of the sweat test, the doctor Di Sant'Agnese, and carefully supervised the implementation of the test at IFF in 1967. She had been involved in the establishment of a partnership with a university teaching hospital to perform microbiological analysis of the secretions of individuals with cystic fibrosis (CF). Her pioneering efforts in cystic fibrosis earned her a seat at the Brazilian Cystic Fibrosis Group alongside other Brazilian experts, similarly to initiatives developed in Argentina and other nations.

She studied CF avidly and delivered presentations and keynote speeches in numerous meetings in Brazil. She trained countless pediatricians coming from all over Brazil to IFF to learn how to manage patients with CF. Those of us who met her know how much she knew about CF and the emotional toll speaking about this condition took on her. How much suffering!

Her calm presence was constant even when the Committee started organizing meetings in other venues. Her generosity struck me deeply when I was ill with hepatitis in the 1990s and she would send me sweets. Her attendance at Committee meetings diminished gradually. She became a member of the group of consultants serving the Committee and I no longer saw her in person. I knew, however, of her dedication to studies, as until recently she remained updated. Her contributions reflected the current knowledge she had always had of the condition.

Her dedication to pediatrics was exemplary. She will be dearly missed as a valorous pioneering physician. Miss her dearly!

Clemax Couto Sant´Anna
Scientific Editor.

DOI: 10.25060/residpediatr-2020.v10n1-00