

## **Dra. Juana M. Pasquini**



Did most of her scientific work in the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), where she graduated with degrees in Pharmacy in 1961 and in Biochemistry in 1964, at the School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry of the University of Buenos Aires. In 1964 she started working in neurochemistry research under Professor Carlos J. Gómez, one of the pioneers of neurochemistry in Argentina.

Juana Pasquini was also teaching at the University, starting from the teaching assistant position in 1960 to the present Emeritus Professor (already reached in 2007) and today she keeps on teaching to Undergrad and Postgraduate students with great dedication to young students, fellows and investigators.

She was elected Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry in 1986 and also the first woman that had the role of Dean in the entire University of Buenos Aires. Her role in the Faculty and in the University was huge and produced enormous changes towards a modern, scientific University.

Her keen interest in neurochemistry took her initially to the laboratories of Professor Ranwell Caputo in Cordoba, where she spent a few months in 1966 as a Visiting Scientist.

In 1975, she was invited to work at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center for Mental Retardation in Boston, Massachusetts, and in 1977, she joined the group headed by Professor G. Porcellatti at the University of Perugia, Italy. Back in Argentina, Juana joined the group of Eduardo F. Soto, who was working at that time at the Institute headed by Professor Eduardo De Robertis.

In the following years, Pasquini lab did a major contribution to understand the role of iron and apotransferrin in maturation and differentiation of the oligodendroglial cell and during myelinogenesis. Another related chapter was the study of iron deficiency effects in myelination. In addition, she recently started an amazing collaborative effort with Dr. Jorge Correale, a regional medical leader in the Multiple Sclerosis field, to apply to this clinical field all her experience in the myelin field in a remarkable translational effort.

From very early times in the 80's and still today, Juana has a major role in promoting neurochemistry in Argentina and Latin America. She was one of the scientists who, together with Professor Ranwell Caputo and Dr. Rodriguez de Lores Arnaiz, founded the Argentine Society for Neurochemistry (SAN) in 1986, the first active society of neurochemistry in Latin America.