

Dr. UMBERTO G. CORDANI



Professor U. G. Cordani has a bachelor degree in Geology from University of São Paulo (1960) with specialization in Geochronology from the University of California, Berkeley. He concluded his PhD at the University of São Paulo in 1968 and spent a post-doctoral term in the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Geochronology in 1971.

His main research interests include geochronology and isotopic geochemistry applied to geotectonic studies. In 1964 he was one of the founders of the Geochronology Research Center of the University of São Paulo, and since then he has worked in the development of radiometric methods, such as K-Ar, Rb-Sr, Sm-Nd, U-Pb e Ar-Ar, for the dating of minerals and rocks. He has contributed to the confirmation of continental drift, by means of dating rocks from Brazil and Africa, which was a fundamental contribution to the mobilistic revolution of the Earth Sciences, when the modern paradigm of plate tectonics was established. During his entire scientific life, he has employed geochronology for the understanding of the tectonic evolution of South America.

Cordani is well-known for his active participation in the international community and was President of the International Union of geological Sciences (IUGS) from 1988 to 1992. He has received numerous honours and prizes, among which the José Bonifácio gold medal of the Brazilian Geological Society, and the Great Cross of Scientific Merit, the highest Brazilian award in Science. Currently he is Emeritus Professor at the Institute of Geosciences, University of São Paulo.