Dr Federico Sackmann-Muriel. In memoriam

It is with great sadness that we share the news of Dr Federico Sackmann-Muriel’s death in Buenos Aires, on March 26, 2021. Dr Sackmann-Muriel was a genuine pioneer on pediatric hemato-oncology in Latin America. He led significant research studies for the treatment of ALL back in the 70’s in Argentina where he created the GATLA (Argentinian Cooperative Group for the treatment of Acute Leukemia). Later, from his position as head of the Hemato-oncology service at the Hospital Garrahan, he continued to support collaborative research in association to the Berlin Frankfurt Munster (BFM) group and his partnership with Dr Hansjorg Riehm. Their presentations and discussions those days when they were making ALL a curable malignancy as it is today, were unforgettable for those who witnessed them. He received many honors and awards in his life, he was also founder and president of SLAOP (Latin American Society of Pediatric Oncology). His contributions were not limited to ALL, but he generated seminal studies in Hodgkin lymphoma and solid tumors such as osteosarcoma. He was a visionary, an innovator, a strong supporter of the idea that Pediatric Oncology should advance by high quality clinical research, especially in the less- favored countries. He was a great mentor and strong leader and he seeded this philosophy to all his co-workers and he was considered a master in our continent. He had also a captivating personality and most should remember his dissertations, his incisive comments and his innate sympathy (everybody wanted to share the table with him in SIOP dinners and other social venues). He was a very good tennis player and in his latest years a formidable gardener. Dr Sackmann-Muriel leaves a legacy as one of the founders of pediatric hemato-oncology in Latin America whose passion, dedication and excellency will shine in many generations of pediatric oncologists.