

## **Dr. Marcelo Victor Elizari, a Giant below the equator line**

**Andrés Ricardo Pérez-Riera & Raimundo Barbosa-Barros**



Dr. Marcelo Víctor Elizari was born in Buenos Aires on July 21, 1937. Doctor (UBA, 1960). Extraordinary Professor of Cardiology and Emeritus Director of the Career of Cardiology Specialists of the UBA. Head of the Cardiology Division of the Ramos Mejía Hospital. President of the Argentine Society of Cardiology. Scientist and Visiting Professor of Indiana University

(USA), University of Poitiers (France) and US Public Health Hospital (New York). Fellow of the American College of Cardiology. Senior Researcher and President of the Career of Scientific Investigator of the Secretary of Health of CABA. He carried out anatomical and clinical investigations and created experimental models for the study of the cardiac conduction system with international impact. Together with Rosenbaum, amiodarone was introduced worldwide as an antiarrhythmic agent. He published more than 115 manuscripts indexed to PubMed. Member of the National Academy of Medicine. He received more than 30 awards, among them: Sívori, Arrillaga, Bullrich, Bunge and Born, Trajectory in Research and Master of Medicine in Argentina.

When he was three months of age his parents (teachers in a rural school) settled in the "Paraje Las Horquetas", an indigenous area, the nearest population of which was Piedra del Águila. There he spent his childhood. He moved to Colonia Centenario, 15 km from the city of Neuquén, where he attended secondary school. When he was 18 years old, he entered the School of Medicine of the UBA in 1955 and graduated at age 22, paying for his studies and expenses of the boarding house in which he lived in Buenos Aires with the proceeds of an "injection service" at home and as a duty doctor. After a career without postponements, he began his training in Cardiology at the Luis H. Inchauspe Cardiology Pavilion of the José María Ramos Mejía Hospital (Chief Dr. Blas Moia), under the direction of Dr. Mauricio B. Rosenbaum in 1960, with whom he shared all his professional activity in the framework of a close friendship that was maintained until his death. At the beginning of the 60s he tried to carry out his Doctoral Thesis on anatomy, pathophysiology and clinical of intraventricular conduction, but modifications in the regulation of the presentation of doctoral theses forced him to postpone his presentation. The work that would have been the subject of the thesis was worthy of the prize "Luis Sívori" of the School of Medicine.

Of the 115 written manuscripts on which he participated, 15 of them were written as the first author:

1. Elizari MV, Lázzari JO, Rosenbaum MB. Phase-3 and phase-4 intermittent left anterior hemiblock. Report of first case in the literature. *Heart*. 1972 Dec;62(6):673-7.
2. Elizari MV, Greenspan K, Fisch C. Exposure of the canine proximal AV conducting system for electrophysiologic studies. *J Appl Physiol*. 1973 Apr;34(4):538-43.
3. Elizari MV, Lázzari JO, Rosenbaum MB. Phase-3 and phase-4 intermittent left bundle branch block occurring spontaneously in a dog. *Eur J Cardiol*. 1973 Sep;1(1):95-103.
4. Elizari MV, Nau GJ, Levi RJ, Lázzari JO, Halpern MS, Rosenbaum MB. Experimental production of rate-dependent bundle branch block in the canine heart. *Circ Res*. 1974 May;34(5):730-42.
5. Elizari MV, Greenspan K, Fisch C. Electrophysiological studies on intraventricular aberrant conduction. *Adv Cardiol*. 1975;14:115-24.
6. Elizari MV, Chiale PA. Cardiac arrhythmias in Chagas' heart disease. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol*. 1993 Oct;4(5):596-608. Review.
7. Elizari MV, Chiale PA. Clinical aspects of cardiac memory revisited. *J Electrocardiol*. 1995;28 Suppl:148-55.
8. Elizari MV. Chagasic myocardopathy: historical perspective. *Medicina (B Aires)*. 1999;59 Suppl 2:25-40.
9. Elizari MV, Martínez JM, Belziti C, Ciruzzi M, Pérez de la Hoz R, Sinisi A, Carbajales J, Scapín O, Garguichevich J, Girotti L, Cagide A. Morbidity and mortality following early administration of amiodarone in acute myocardial infarction. GEMICA study investigators, GEMA Group, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Grupo de Estudios Multicéntricos en Argentina. *Eur Heart J*. 2000 Feb;21(3):198-205.
10. Elizari MV. Arrhythmias associated with Chagas' heart disease. *Card Electrophysiol Rev*. 2002 Feb;6(1-2):115-9.

11. Elizari MV1, Acunzo RS, Ferreiro M. Hemiblocks revisited. *Circulation*. 2007 Mar 6;115(9):1154-63.
12. Elizari MV1, Levi R, Acunzo RS, Chiale PA, Civetta MM, Ferreiro M, Sicouri S. Abnormal expression of cardiac neural crest cells in heart development: a different hypothesis for the etiopathogenesis of Brugada syndrome. *Heart Rhythm*. 2007 Mar;4(3):359-65
13. Elizari MV1, Baranchuk A, Chiale PA. Masquerading bundle branch block: a variety of right bundle branch block with left anterior fascicular block. *Expert Rev Cardiovasc Ther*. 2013 Jan;11(1):69-75.
14. Elizari MV1, Conde D, Baranchuk A, Chiale PA. Accelerated idioventricular rhythm unmasking the Brugada electrocardiographic pattern. *Ann Noninvasive Electrocardiol*. 2015 Jan;20(1):91-3.
15. Elizari MV1. The normal variants in the left bundle branch system. *J Electrocardiol*. 2017 Jul - Aug;50(4):389-399.

#### Assistance Activity

The Inchauspe Pavilion fostered research, teaching and an assistance activity of the highest level, becoming one of the most important cardiology centers in the country in the training of doctors in that specialty. The care activity of the Inchauspe Pavilion acquired great prestige for two reasons: for the capacity and quality of its medical staff and for the multiplicity of activities that took place in it. Among the professionals of the medical plant were figures linked to the dawn of Argentine cardiology and its history. All these cardiologists were, without exception, Heads of Cardiology in the municipal hospitals of Buenos Aires and the interior of the country. Another outstanding fact of the Pavilion was the training of national and foreign scholarship holders who carried out their cardiological training for 2 or 3 years, who, once they returned to their places of origin, also occupied places of privilege.

It was in this environment that, since February 1961, Dr. Elizari began his clinical-cardiological training. It should be noted that, in his capacity as Head of Fellows, Dr. Elizari lived in the Inchauspe Pavilion for three years, which also had facilities to permanently house 10 fellows. He resigned to the Cardiology Residence won by contest, to opt for a scholarship from the UBA. Nevertheless, he continued with the clinical activity and as Head of Scholars until 1964. He entered the Municipal Medical Career by competition and went to the Cardiology Service of the Argerich Hospital, headed by Dr. Fernando Battle, and next to Dr. Bertolasi shared the professional activity in charge of the Electrophysiology and Arrhythmia sector. In 1972 he returned to the Inchauspe Pavilion with the same function.

In 1980, he was appointed Head of the Hospital Unit and later, in 1987, Head of the Cardiology Division of the Ramos Mejía Hospital, both positions won through a background and opposition contest.

The care activity in the Public Hospital of Dr. Marcelo V. Elizari from 1960 until his retirement in 2012, was always closely interwoven with teaching and research, convinced that this triad is the only and best way to improve the results of these disciplines, benefitting the care and attention of patients who come to any health center to relieve their ailments.

The cardiologist specialist in diagnosis and treatment of the heart was declared Outstanding Personality in Medical Sciences, in recognition of his career.

Thanks to the initiative of the official deputy Christian Bauab, the cardiologist Marcelo Víctor Elizari received the diploma that accredited him as Outstanding Personality in Medical Sciences in the field of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

"His career is enormous; all the achievements he has are reflected in his curriculum. The role and dedication he has in the training of doctors and cardiologists, who take care of us every day is very important," said Bauab at the beginning of the event.

The head of the Coronary Unit of the José María Ramos Mejía Hospital, Justo Carabajales, reviewed the trajectory of Elizari, whom he described as "the love of medicine and the neediest", when he always sought "that the poor and the rich have the same attention. "

For his part, the honoree after receiving the award addressed the audience, to whom he expressed that "first of all a thank you to all who came to this place to honor me; friends, colleagues, patients, relatives, professionals; and I take this opportunity to remember that the history of cardiology at the Hospital Ramos Mejía has to do with the history of cardiology in Argentina, since in the 1930s the doctors Bullrich and Bravo Menendez were the promoters and created the "Directorate of Assistance in Cardiology" and in 1946 the pavilion Luis Inchauspe was inaugurated (by donation of his relatives), dedicated to the attention to this pathology. A few years later the SAC was created, which also published the seventh journal in the world dedicated to this area of medical science."

Elizari • Chiale

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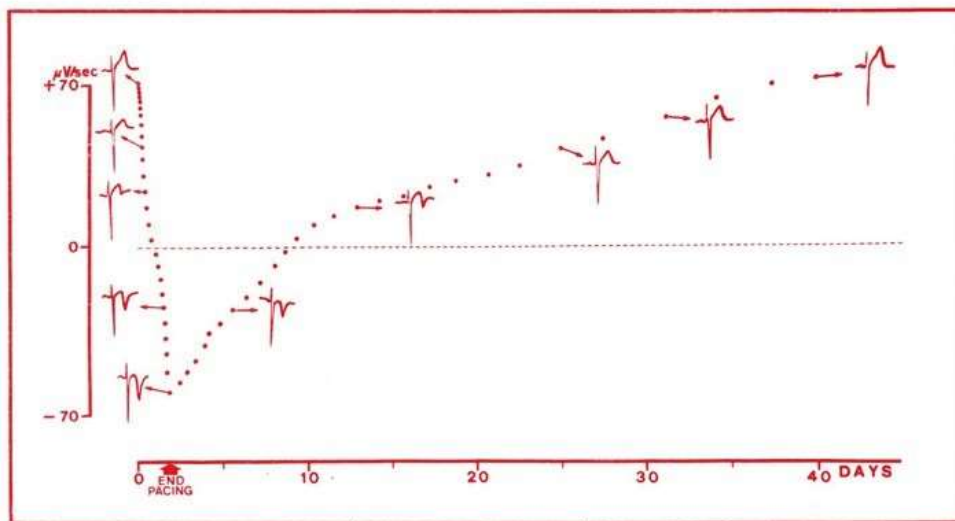
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