

## In Memoriam

### *Professor Dr. Albert Oehling*

On May 22nd, Professor Alberto Oehling, founding editor of the Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology, passed away at the age of 85 at Clínica Universidad de Navarra, his second home.

Professor Oehling was born in 1928 in Granada. In 1955, he obtained his degree in Medicine from the University of Granada, where a year later he obtained his doctorate.

He started his career as an allergologist in the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, thereafter becoming Director of the Sección de Alergología Policlínica at the Clínica Médica Universitaria of Granada.

In 1958, he moved to Germany, where he worked with Professor Hansen in Lübeck and at the Allergie-Forschungs Institut in Bad Lippspringe.

In 1961, he moved to Pamplona in order to set up the Department of Allergology of Clínica Universidad de Navarra, of which he was the director until his retirement in 1998. He combined this activity with a professorship at the School of Medicine of the Universidad de Navarra.

Professor Oehling held many positions and honours during his career, the most outstanding of which were as follows: Professor of the University of South Florida Medical School, Tampa, Florida (USA); President of the World Allergy Organization (2004-2007); General Secretary and President of Interasma; Member of the Academy of Medicine and Doctor Honoris Causa of the Universidad de Montevideo (Uruguay); and the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande (Order of the Civil Cross of Merits) of the Federal Republic of Germany (1965). He also received a Gold Plaque from the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (Paris, 1992) and was honored with the award of an "Albert Oehling Lecture".

It is difficult to summarize Professor Oehling's professional achievements. He wrote more than 200 articles and more than 100 book chapters and he edited 8 books. He trained more than 100 specialists from throughout the world, many of whom now hold important posts abroad. Most Spanish allergology departments were set up by specialists trained in his department before moving to other hospitals (Valencia, Santander, Bilbao, La Coruña), and many are now directors of their own departments.

He cared for thousands of patients from all over Spain and from other countries. We, the professionals trained in his department, remember the gratitude and admiration that many of those patients felt for him, and how they attended their check-ups punctually, even recommending relatives, neighbours, and friends to be examined by Professor Oehling.



He ensured that the specialty of allergology became a separate field of university study, participated in the preparation of the teaching program, established the specialty in Spain, and helped to develop the residency program.

Thanks to Professor Oehling, allergology is a core subject at the School of Medicine of University of Navarra. As a result, generations of doctors have had the opportunity to further their knowledge of allergic diseases.

Professor Oehling had the foresight to launch the allergology laboratory as a key component in the diagnosis of and research into allergic diseases, thus complementing his care work.

His international status was such that he was twice invited to act as an assessor on the committee of the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

His interest in promoting allergology, his skill as a teacher, and his interest in basic and clinical research have helped to situate allergic diseases as a major field of study in Spanish medicine.

All those who have had the opportunity to work with and be trained by Professor Oehling feel very proud to be part of the Department of Allergology and Clinical Immunology of Clínica Universidad de Navarra. We remember him with gratitude and affection.

His professionalism, his vision, and his interest in allergology led him to found the journal *Allergology et Immunopathology*, of which he was Editor-in-chief until 1998. In 1990, he founded the *Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology*, which is now the official organ of the SEAIC. His legacy will be appreciated by future generations of allergists.

*PM Gamboa*  
Associate Editor, JIACI

*María L Sanz*  
Editor-in-Chief, JIACI