

In memoriam
Professor Dr. JOSE ARANA VARELA
(1944-2016)



Professor Jose Arana Varela passed away after a serious illness on 17th May 2016. He was born in Martinópolis, state São Paulo, Brazil on 11th April 1944. He graduated in 1968 in Physics at the University of São Paulo (USP), Brazil, received his MSc in 1975 in Physics at the Technological Institute of Aeronautics (ITA), Sao Paolo, Brazil and a PhD in Materials Science at the University of Washington, WA, USA in 1981.

Jose Arana Varela was the professor at Institute for Chemistry, University of Sao Paolo (IQ UNESP-Instituto de Quimica, Universidade Estadual Paulista, Araraquara) and he was the first professor of UNESP to obtain the position of the Chief Executive Officer in the Technical Board of Sao Paolo state Research and Development Foundation FAPESP. He was also a member of the Superior Council of the Foundation in period 2004–2010 and its vice president from 2007 to 2010. He was founder and director of UNESP Innovation Agency and coordinator of Innovation Functional Materials Development Center (CDMF), a Center for Research, Innovation and Application (CEPID) of FAPESP. FAPESP's president, José Goldemberg, lamenting the loss not only for FAPESP but for science in São Paulo and Brazil, remarked: "Professor Varela was a scientist of very high standards and as chairman of the Technical Board of FAPESP has not only lived up to his qualities but also helped to maintain the high scientific level of the institution".

He was a member of the Superior Council for Innovation and Competitiveness of the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo, the Brazilian Physical Society, State Academy of Sciences of São Paulo and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. He was a full member of

the International Institute of the Science of Sintering-IISS founded in Belgrade, Serbia as an international Academy. Varela was also a member of the World Academy of Ceramics, the American Ceramic Society, the Board of Trustees of Ceramic and Glass Industry Foundation and the Materials Research Society. J.A. Varela was president of the Brazilian Society for Research in Materials (2010–2012).

He was a member of the Editorial Board of several journals, including *Ceramics International*, *Science of Sintering*, *Ceramics and Materials Research*, etc.

J.A. Varela received several awards and honors. For his work in the field of technology he received two honor mentions for the Sao Paolo Governor Prize (1993 and 1996). He received 13 awards for science and publishing activities, including the Golden Epsilon Award of the Spanish Ceramics and Glass Society as the first non-Spanish scientist, the Scopus Award Elsevier, for its contribution to science in Brazil, the Global Star Award (2013) and the Bridge Building Award (2014), the last two from the American Ceramic Society.

As a researcher, Prof. J.A. Varela had great experience in materials science, with attention on ceramic materials, especially in studies of thin films, ferroelectric materials and dielectrics, varistors, semiconductors, boundary properties of grains and sintering. Varela gave the support to the research of ceramic materials in Brazil, developing a strong exchange with research institutions in Spain, France, United States, Slovenia, Serbia and Italy.

Prof. Varela published a huge number of scientific articles and advised many master and doctoral theses. Among many others, with his colleague and friend Prof.

Elson Longo, he published at least 500 scientific articles and advised more than 80 doctoral students and 50 master theses. Varela is an author of the book *Engineered Ceramics - current status and future prospects*, released in January 2016 by the American Ceramic Society during the 40th International Conference and Expo on Advanced Ceramics and Composites.

It is well known that Varela was hard-worker, never tired and always full of new scientific ideas and proposals, always ready to discuss with colleagues and students and capable to keep the whole group together and, at the same time, to give to each member of the group individually the right motivation. His optimistic approach to life in general and to his teaching and research in particular, his sharp mind and his extensive background

knowledge were well known. He always had a lot of duties, but he enjoyed having a short break and drinking a strong coffee from very small cups. Surrounded with people from Lab, he preferred to talk not only about scientific matters but also completely ordinary things of everyday life.

To colleagues from all around the world he was more than colleague; he was a friend that will be sadly missed.

Prof. Biljana Stojanović

Prof. Maria Aparecida Zaghete