



Obituary

Eucleia Primo Betioli Contel (1945-2016)



Eucleia Primo Betioli Contel, recently retired as Full Professor of the Genetics Department at Faculdade de Medicina de Ribeirão Preto-USP (Ribeirão Preto Medical School of the University of São Paulo), passed away on July 10, 2016 after a brief illness. Eucleia leaves behind her husband Onildo, sons Ricardo (45) and Fábio (43), two daughters-in-law

and two granddaughters.

Born in Marília, SP, June 1, 1945, she did her undergraduate studies in Biology from 1964 to 1969 at the Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto-USP (School of Philosophy, Sciences and Letters of Ribeirão Preto-USP). In 1965, Eucleia began a scientific initiation project under the supervision of Dr. Warwick Kerr, one year after the Genetics Department at FMRP had been founded. She also did a specialization in Genetics (1967-1968) in Porto Alegre at the UFRGS (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul), where she worked with Professors Antonio R. Cordeiro, Francisco M. Salzano, and Casemiro V. Tondo, all internationally renowned scientists.

Eucleia obtained her Master's (1972) and Doctoral degrees (1975) in Genetics at FMRP-USP. From 1976 to 1978 she did a Post-Doctoral research project (1976-1978) at the University of Michigan, USA, to work in a laboratory that was leading research on protein sequencing in search of molecular polymorphisms. Those days, traveling abroad for post-doctoral internships was not common, showing her pioneering spirit, especially since Eucleia took her family along with her.

Dr. Contel became Assistant Professor in the Genetics Department of FMRP-USP in 1973, where she was pro-

moted to Associate Professor in 1981 and Full Professor in 2000. Professor Contel was department chair from 1997 to 2001. Amongst her numerous administrative activities, she was a member of the FMRP Culture and Extension Commission from 2004-2015, acting as its vice-president from 2008-2012.

In the Genetics Department of FMRP, Eucleia Contel shared since the early 1970s space with Professor Moacyr Mestriner in the Biochemical Genetics laboratory, from which over 70 Masters and Doctors students from all regions of Brazil and several Latin American countries graduated under her guidance. From early on, then in the heydays of isozyme polymorphism studies, this laboratory did cutting-edge, state-of-the-art research. Together with Professor Mestriner, Eucleia published a pioneering paper on the first protein polymorphism described in bees, in Genetics. More published works followed in the *Journal of Heredity* and *Biochemical Genetics*, devoted to the study of isozymes in a variety of animal and plant species. She has an extensive list of publications from 1972 to 2016, including many top journals, such as *Heredity*, *Conservation Genetics*, *Biochemical Genetics*, *The Journal of Heredity*, and *Genetics*.

Actively involved with the Brazilian Society of Genetics, Dr. Contel served as twice as Treasurer (1988-1990 and 2008-2010) and as Secretary (2010-2012).

All those who have met her and shared moments with her will agree with the words of Professor Francisco M. Salzano: "the Brazilian university community would be much better off if there were more people with Professor Eucleia's intellectual honesty, firmness of character and agreeable personality".

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