

Dr. Osvaldo Cori Mouly conference at XL Annual Meeting of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Society, Puerto Varas 2017.

Dr. Osvaldo Cori, a medical doctor from University of Chile, was born in Antofagasta in 1921 and died in Santiago in 1987. In his academic life he distinguished himself as a creator. For example, in 1957 he participated in the creation of the first Biochemistry degree in Chile, in the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of the University of Chile, together with Drs. Luis Cerutti and César Leighton, and in 1962 he also participated in the creation of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Chile. He participated in the creation of the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) in 1967, a work that he continued until 1970. A year before of his death, he became the president of this institution, in 1986. His main task was the formation of very well known scientists in Biochemistry, who lead the development of science in different areas of knowledge. Most of his disciples paid him a posthumous tribute that appears in the Journal of Archives of Experimental Biology and Medicine of the year 1988.

To have a better knowledge of Dr. Cori life, I recommend visiting the WEB site page:

<http://www.pioneros.cienciavida.org/5/osvaldo-cori/>

I knew Dr. Cori as professor of the committee of my Biochemist Thesis in 1971 and one year later like student of the Graduate Program in Biochemistry. At that time he dictated a seminar course for the Program about the importance of phosphorous in living beings. He, as a visionary scientist, made very important comments about protein phosphorylation that later on became the principal signal for regulation of cellular homeostasis. This course was very peculiar

because we met in his small seminar room, close to his office, in the second floor, in Vicuña Mackena 20. The environment was like a family discussing about science. In these activities he was very rigorous and he never allowed speculations about experimental results.

He was a very generous person. I remember in 1986, when he was president of CONICYT he asked me to represent him in the “Jornadas Científicas de Chillan” where he was invited. As a young scientist I was very nervous about this responsibility and when I asked him about content of the speech he told me “you know better than I about the development of sciences in Chile at this moment”. This gave me confidence and freedom to talk about my own ideas.

Let me make a last commentary about the development of sciences today following the way that professors like Dr. Osvaldo Cori, Dr. Hermann Niemyer, Hector Croxato and Jorge Mardones gave us. They were the second generation of scientist in Biochemistry after professors Eduardo Cruz-Coke and Juan Noe. Several professors from the third generation are no with us, like professor Tito Ureta, so the responsibility of the development of Biochemistry is in the hands of the fourth and fifth generation. As Dr. Ilona Concha said yesterday, this is a huge responsibility that we hope they will know how to succeed following the way of the old generations.

Thanks