

## ***A Tribute to Alberto K. Oehling (1928-2014)***

---

Alberto K. Oehling passed away on 22 May 2014. He had a lovely and prolific life and had an outstanding career in the field of Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Diseases.

He was born in Granada, Spain in August 1928; his mother was Spanish and his father, German. Alberto K. Oehling was a German citizen; he started his basic education in Germany and then studied medicine in Granada, Spain, where he obtained his medical degree in 1955 and his PhD degree in 1956. His Allergy training started in January 1957 in Lübeck under the mentorship of Prof. Karl Hansen. Later, from 1958 until 1961 he was a consultant in the *Allergie Forschung Institute u. Asthma Clinic* in Bad Lippspringe, Germany. He was board certified in Internal Medicine and Allergology and Clinical Immunology. In 1968 he moved to Pamplona, Spain, to create the Department of Allergology at *Clínica Universitaria*, University of Navarra, where he worked till his retirement. He was Adjunct Professor and later a full Professor of Allergology and Clinical Immunology in the same University. In addition, for three years he was Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine at South Florida University Medical School in Tampa, Florida, USA, working with Richard F. Lockey and Andor Szentivanyi.

He founded two journals, still in the market, *Allergologia et Immunopathología* and the *Journal of Investigational Allergology and Clinical Immunology*. He had a remarkable scientific career, delivering over 300 lectures all around the world; he published over 260 papers in peer-reviewed journals but also in Spanish and other regional journals. He contributed in writing 101 book chapters; he also edited 8 books on allergy, asthma and immunology. He directed 17 PhD thesis works. He was an allergist interested not only in respiratory diseases, but also in dermatology, food allergy, and especially, immunotherapy. He was one of the firsts in gaining insight of the role of IgG4 as blocking antibodies at the end of the 90s. During the last years, he worked closely with his friend Alain De Weck on drug allergy.

The Department of Allergology he created was one of the most relevant at that time in Europe, having a very active outpatient clinic, an immunology lab, respiratory patients' treatment and rehabilitation and a sector of thirty adults and pediatric beds. Patients not only from Spain but also from other European countries came to Pamplona for diagnosis and treatment of allergic and respiratory diseases. His department became very attractive for young physicians for having training in the specialty. Many generations of Spanish doctors trained in Pamplona. Alberto K. Oehling was a man who had an early global vision without any kind of discrimination to accept fellows from Argentina, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Philippines, Japan, Germany, Poland, Rumania, among other countries.

He was a member of many national and international organizations, such as *EAACI*, *AAAAI*, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Allergie und Immunitätsforschung*, *Gesellschaft für Klinische und Experimentelle Immunologie der DDR*, *Société Francaise d' Allergie*, among others. In addition, he was honorary member of 19 societies from all over the world. He was also awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit "*Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande*" of the Deutschland Federal Republic.

Alberto K. Oehling devoted his energy and commitment to INTERASMA, the Global Asthma Association, being Secretary General, and President. He was also President of the World Congress of Asthma in Barcelona in 1998. He was President of WAO during two terms. The first one, replacing Prof. Jacques Charpin, from Marseille, since he was the first Vice-President of WAO (IAACI at that time); later on, he was President from 1994 to 1997.

Alberto K. Oehling was a great man. He had a generous and warm temperament. He was a fine man and knowledgeable in arts and culture. He had a lovely family with *Doña Blanca* and their six children.

I had the privilege to train with Alberto K. Oehling and I received a big impact from him that was crucial in my life as it also happened to many other people that had the wonderful opportunity to share their life and profession with Alberto. Many people around the world will remember him for his support and kindness. His contribution to WAO was enormous.

Alberto, we will miss you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos E. Baena-Cagnani', written in a cursive style.

**Prof. Carlos E. Baena-Cagnani**  
Past President of World Allergy Organization  
President of INTERASMA