

## In Memoriam: Paulo Roberto Silveira Gomes (1950–2016)



**Paulo Roberto  
Silveira Gomes**

Paulo Roberto Silveira Gomes, a well-known Brazilian experimental nuclear physicist, passed away in May 2016 of a heart attack in his hotel room in Naples. He was a participant and invited speaker at the 11th International Conference on Clustering Aspects of Nuclear Structure and Dynamics, Cluster2016. Paulo Gomes, as he preferred to be known, was born in 1950 in Niteroi, Brazil. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Physics at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) in 1972, and there he also completed his M.Sc. degree in 1975. He then went to England and obtained his Ph.D. at Sussex University in 1979. After returning to Brazil, Paulo worked shortly at the Center for Aeronautics Technology (CTA) and then at the University of Sao Paulo (USP). Later he joined the Federal Fluminense University (UFF) and became a full professor in 2004. He fought continuously for the benefit of

this institution and helped to create a group of excellence at UFF.

Throughout his career he worked in atomic physics, nuclear physics (experimental and theoretical), and applied physics. He published 181 papers, many of which had great scientific impact, with a total of 4,600 citations. Paulo presented 123 invited talks in 33 different countries, 50 of which were invited plenary talks. He was a member of advisory committees of 32 international conferences. Paulo acted as reviewer in 23 international journals and gave advice on requests for assistance and faculty promotions in the main institutions in Brazil, and also in institutions in Australia, India, Poland, Switzerland, Belgium, Greece, Argentina, and Colombia. Undoubtedly, he had a prominent role in the study of nuclear reactions at low energies in the international scenario.

Paulo also was involved in substantial administrative contributions to Brazilian institutions. At UFF he served as Department Head, Director of the Institute of Physics, and Research Coordinator of the Vice-Deanship of Graduate Studies and Research, among numerous other committees. He was also General Secretary of the Brazilian Physics Society for two terms. He was also on the advisory board of the Brazilian Federal Research Agency, the CNPq, during several two-year terms.

Among our first publications with him was an extensive review article appearing in 2006. It was based on a thesis presented by him in his competition for a full professorship position at the UFF. From there on our

collaboration grew ever more intensively. Paulo Gomes was a creative researcher, with great knowledge of experimental techniques and familiarity with the theoretical tools available. He was always up to date with new developments in our research area and was always willing to start new projects with great enthusiasm.

Paulo was a gentleman and always had an aggregative approach with collaborators, never failing to defend academic quality principles. Paulo's dedication to his institution and his scientific contributions were key to making the Physics Institute of UFF among the best in Brazil.

Paulo had many plans for the future. First, the recently inaugurated Accelerator Mass Spectroscopy Laboratory at the UFF of which he was the director, a unique multi-user installation in Latin America—for dating and screening materials—with applications in physics, geosciences, geochemistry, and marine biology, among others. Also, the very recently approved proposal to create a National Center for Nuclear Physics and Applications to be funded by the federal and state governments, housed at the UFF, and directed by him. Last, he proposed, and received the invitation from the IAC of Cluster2016, to organize the 12th edition of the conference, Cluster2020, in Niteroi. These projects were a testament to Paulo's tireless effort to indulge the Brazilian Nuclear Physics Community with significant research-related activities. His untimely death will be greatly felt.

In all aspects, the passing of Paulo Gomes is an indisputable loss to our community, both as a leader with en-



thusiastic entrepreneurial spirit and as a colleague with full information of recent developments in research topics of our interest. Paulo was also a great companion in our leisure time and, above all, he was a great friend.

CARLOS A. BERTULANI  
*Department of Physics and  
Astronomy, Texas A&M University–  
Commerce, College Station,  
Texas, USA*

LUIZ FELIPE CANTO  
*Univesidade Federal do  
Rio de Janeiro,  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*

MAHIR S. HUSSEIN  
*Universidade de São Paulo,  
São Paulo, Brazil*

JESUS LUBIAN  
*Universidade Federal Fluminense,  
Icarai, Niterói, Brazil*

ALINKA LÉPINE-SZILY  
*Universidade de São Paulo,  
São Paulo, Brazil*

### **BUILD ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

Which facilities are expanding or upgrading?

What are the latest research projects?

What happened at various events?

Are there upcoming events you would like to attend?

**READ EVERY ISSUE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS NEWS**