

Ulysses Garcia Casado Lins

Ulysses Lins, a Professor at the Microbiology Institute of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) Brazil, unexpectedly passed away at age 48 on 14 June 2017. Lins obtained an undergraduate degree in Genetics from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), one of the highest ranking universities in South



America, in 1991. He later received M.S. (1993) and Ph.D. (1997) degrees from the Carlos Chagas Filho Biophysics Institute at UFRJ under the guidance of Professor Marcos Farina, an expert in biomineralization. Ulysses began his academic career in 1996 at the age of 27 when he became a professor in the Department of General Microbiology of the Institute of Microbiology Paulo de Góes (IMPG) of UFRJ.

Lins' passion in Microbiology was optical and electron microscopy. In 2002, he founded the Cell Biology and Magnetotaxis Laboratory at the Microbiology Institute of UFRJ. He was also an active member of the Brazilian Society for Microscopy and Microanalysis. Because of his expertise, Lins was in demand by many researchers resulting in collaborations with numerous international investigators. Some of these collaborations involved frequent visits to the laboratories of a number of scientists including Dr. Bechara Kachar at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, during the period of 1996-1999, and later to

the lab of one of us (Bazylinski) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2011 and 2013.

Eventually, magnetotactic bacteria (MTB) became the focus of Ulysses' work, in particular, a unique, uncultured group of MTB referred to as “multicellular magnetotactic prokaryotes” or MMPs. His fascination with MMPs was based on the fact that they are magnetotactic, and also exhibit a unique form of complex prokaryotic multicellularity. He and his group provisionally named an MMP found in Brazil, *Candidatus Magnetoglobus multicellularis*. His excellent, detailed microscopy work on this organism was published in the ASM journal Microbe (2007; 2:437-445).

During his career, Lins published 96 peer-reviewed articles in numerous international scientific journals. Often times, his microscopy work graced the covers of the issues of the journals in which he published in (e.g., AEM **82**: issue 18). He directed 11 undergraduate monographs, 11 Master's degree dissertations, 8 Doctoral theses and supervised 7 postdoctoral researchers. He was appointed Full Professor at the age of 47. The impact of Lins' outstanding work in biomineralization and MTB cannot be overstated based on numerous important discoveries in his field. His sudden passing took all of us who work on MTB by surprise. Professor Ulysses Lins will always be remembered with admiration and respect by his students and colleagues for his dedication to Microbiology and his sincerity and generosity.

Fernanda Abreu

Richard B. Frankel

Dennis A. Bazylinski