



*Latinamerican Association of Space Geophysics
Asociación Latinoamericana de Geofísica Espacial
Associação Latino-americana de Geofísica Espacial*

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*Ciencia hay una sola y comunidad
científica una sola.*

Juan G. Roederer (Cuba 1993)

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Editorial.

Por la Dra. Inez Batista

A la memoria de Mario Acuña, el amigo de todos.

Dr. Mario H. Acuña the Exterior Secretary of ALAGE passed away on March 5, 2009, after a lengthy and brave battle against multiple myeloma, a cancer of the blood.

Dr. Mario Acuña was born in Córdoba, Argentina in March 21, 1940 where he received his undergraduate degree in humanities and economics from the University of Córdoba. He earned the MSEE degree from the University of Tucumán, Argentina in 1967 and the PhD. degree in Space Physics from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC in 1974. From 1963 until 1967 he worked for the Electrical Engineering Department and Ionospheric Research Laboratory of the University of Tucumán as well as the Argentine National Space Research Commission (CNIE) as a Teaching and Research Associate. These activities included several cooperative sounding rockets programs with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center involving US and South American scientists as well as X-ray research with high altitude balloons and meteorological satellite tracking stations. In 1967 he moved permanently to the US joining the Fairchild-Hiller Corporation, Germantown, MD, to provide engineering and scientific support to NASA. In 1968 he became Head of the Electronic Systems Division (TSD). Since 1969 he has been associated with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD where his interests have centered around aerospace instrumentation and experimental investigations of the magnetic fields and plasmas in the solar system. As Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator, Instrument Scientist and Project Scientist he has played a crucial part in many NASA missions, including Explorers 47 & 50, ISEE3, Mariner 10, Pioneer 11, Voyagers 1 & 2, MAGSAT, Project Firewheel (Germany, Canada, US & UK), Viking (Sweden), AMPTE (Germany, US, UK), ISPM (NASA/ESA, currently ULYSSES), the GIOTTO mission to Comet Halley, and numerous other programs. In 1986 he was selected as Principal Investigator for the Mars Observer Magnetic Field Investigation later replaced by the Mars Global Surveyor Mission which arrived at Mars in September 1997 and is currently in orbit around the red planet making fundamental discoveries about Mars' magnetism. His research laboratory is recognized throughout the world as the leader in the development of instrumentation for the measurement of geophysical magnetic fields as well as plasmas, electromagnetic waves, gamma and X-rays. The laboratory has also supported since 1984 the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program of the US Air Force with the provision of advanced magnetic field instrumentation. In addition to these responsibilities Dr. Acuña served as US Project Scientist (and Science Manager) for the International Solar Terrestrial Physics Program, a \$2.4B coordinated research effort by Japan, Europe, Russia and the US involving more than 1000 investigators and the launch of at least seven spacecraft in the middle 90's, and Project Scientist for the SAC cooperative program with Argentina, Brazil, Italy and Denmark. He was also the Team Leader for the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous Magnetic Field Experiment which landed on 433 Eros in February 2001, was the Lead Co-Investigator in the Magnetic Field and Electron Reflectometer experiment for the Lunar Prospector Mission, Instrument Scientist for the ACE spacecraft Magnetic Field Experiment launched in August 1997 and now in orbit around the L1 libration point

between the Earth and the Sun. He was selected by NASA as Co-Investigator in the Inner Magnetosphere Explorer Mission (IMEX), a University-class Small Explorer Mission, a collaboration with the Universities of Minnesota and Colorado and the Aerospace Corporation and was Co-Investigator in the Messenger mission to Mercury and the twin spacecraft STEREO mission.

Dr. Acuña has published over 200 refereed papers dealing with planetary exploration, magnetic fields and plasmas in the solar system, instrumentation for space research and other related subjects. He has been honored by NASA and other organizations with numerous prestigious awards including the Schneebaum Memorial Award for Engineering Excellence, the John C. Lindsay Award for Space Science, the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement, the Exceptional Service Medal, the Award of Merit and the Distinguished Service Medal (NASA's highest honor) in recognition of his contributions to engineering, physics and space research. In 1991 he was honored by the Catholic University Alumni Association with the Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award, by the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers with an Outstanding Technical Contribution Award and was appointed as a Senior Fellow by the Goddard Space Flight Center.

In 1985 he was selected by the IEEE Magnetics Society as one of three Distinguished Lecturers to speak throughout the US on the subject of Space Magnetometry. Dr. Acuña was a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Scientific Research Society of North America (Sigma Xi), the Committee for Space Research and International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy, the Inter-Agency Consultative Group, WG-1, and a founding member of the Latin American Association of Space Geophysics (ALAGE).

Dr. Mario Acuña passed away in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his family and loved ones. He leaves a devoted wife, Barbara; sons Jamie, Andrew, and Daniel; daughter Marta, and five grandchildren, with more on the way. He passed peacefully, content with all that life afforded him. His loss will be deeply felt by all who follow the progress of planetary science and space plasma physics and particularly by his many friends in ALAGE.

For more details, including a blog posted by his family that chronicles the struggle with his illness, visit: <http://supermarioacuna.wordpress.com/>

MARIO ACUÑA (1940-2009)

Por José Francisco Valdés Galicia,

A Mario Acuña rara vez le desaparecía la sonrisa del rostro; esa característica, junto con su andar cansino y encorvado eran tal vez el lenguaje corporal que manifestaba dos de los rasgos fundamentales de su carácter profundo: un hombre alegre, fuerte, avezado, muy seguro de los pasos que iba dando por la vida, para la cual no había prisa, cada movimiento requería reflexión, consideración detallada; su ejecución debiera ser también pausada, a un ritmo que permitiera medir el avance, ponderar el camino aun por recorrer, corregir el rumbo si fuese preciso.

Desde que lo conocí en los intrincados pasillos de la reunión de COSPAR en 1982, cuando yo era todavía un estudiante, me llamó la atención su capacidad para relacionarse con todo tipo de personas: desde los altos jefes de la NASA, con quienes argumentaba firmemente y ganaba los mas puntos que podía, hasta los que, como yo, pedíamos su consejo, su orientación y no pocas veces sus gestiones que franqueaban barreras irremontables para los apenas iniciados en los menesteres espaciales. Era también un escucha paciente para colaboradores y colegas, con quienes trataba de extraer siempre lo sustancial de la charla, llevarla hacia conclusiones, acciones concretas; trascender a las palabras era siempre una de sus metas cuando de trabajo se hablaba.

Pero Mario era también un conversador excelente alrededor de una botella de vino, o de unos tequilas, donde no debía faltar la sal, el limón y la “sangrita”, ritual que aprendió puntualmente en su primera visita a México. En esos casos el tiempo y el rumbo de las charlas eran lo de menos, lo que contaba era el gusto de estar juntos, compartiendo una velada, una mañana, o una tarde de aquellas que parecen infinitas. Gustaba también de caminar para hacer plática, y para ello servían lo mismo los vericuetos de callejuelas en ciudades antiguas, que las arenas de playas tropicales, o las amplias calzadas enmarcadas por ruinas de monumentos legados por nuestros ancestros.

Toda esa fuerza, toda esa energía, toda esa bonhomía, sirvieron a Mario para abrirse camino en la vida y llegar a ser uno de los líderes científicos más importantes de la NASA y la ESA, donde participó como investigador principal en varias de sus mas importantes misiones: Voyager, Pioneer, Mariner, Giotto, Mars Global Surveyor, Messenger y otras. Miembro de la Academia de Ciencias de los Estados Unidos, NASA reconoció sus logros otorgándole premios diversos como la Moe Schneebaum Memorial Award en el Goddard Space Flight Center, o la medalla al Merito Científico Extraordinario y la medalla por su Servicio Sobresaliente.

Acuña fue sin duda una brillante personalidad de la ciencia, apreciado y valorado en todo el mundo por multitud de amigos y discípulos. Nacido en Córdoba, Argentina, en 1940, se tituló de ingeniero en la Universidad de Tucumán. En la segunda mitad de los años sesenta emigró a los Estados Unidos y desde 1969 trabajó en el Centro Espacial Goddard. Fue autor de más de 115 trabajos científicos, principalmente sobre exploración espacial, campos magnéticos y plasmas del sistema solar.

Ciudadano de los Estados Unidos desde 1994, Mario nunca se desprendió de sus raíces. La Comisión Nacional de Actividades Espaciales, CONEA, de Argentina encontró en él a un consejero y apoyo permanente para cualquier proyecto que se proponía. Acuña ayudó en la promoción, fundación y consolidación de la ALAGE, de la cual era Secretario Internacional al momento de su muerte. Estuvo presente en todas las COLAGE, salvo la que se realizó en Cuba, por restricciones laborales evidentes. No fueron pocos los estudiantes o investigadores latinoamericanos a quienes se abrieron las puertas de NASA gracias a sus gestiones.

A Mario se le acabó la vida el pasado 5 de marzo, cuando perdió la última batalla con un mieloma múltiple, con quien sostuvo una guerra sin cuartel de varios años. Se ha ido un hombre cuyos logros científicos fueron equiparables con una extraordinaria sencillez y don de gentes, sin duda un ser de excepción.

Quienes trabajamos en Ciencia y Tecnología Espaciales, hemos perdido no solo un amigo, sino un aliado, un consejero, una fuerza y una vitalidad sobresalientes. En este mundo escaso de propósitos nobles, la nobleza y la energía de de Mario serán ejemplo luminoso para recargar el espíritu y la voluntad de conocer mejor este planeta y su entorno, para hacer de la vida una experiencia digna y placentera.

1. Proyectos y cursos en nuestra región

1.1 De nuestros colegas Brasileños

Enviado por la Dra. Inez Batista

Dear colleagues:

COSPAR is receiving nominations for awards to be presented at the 38th COSPAR Scientific Assembly to be held in Bremen, Germany, 18-25 July 2010. The nomination, together with the items listed on the nomination form, must reach the COSPAR Secretariat by 30 November 2009. COSPAR encourages the distribution of this notice to space research colleagues who might be interested in suggesting candidates for awards. Note, however, that nominations must be signed or endorsed by an eligible nominator**. Only nominations submitted using the attached nomination form, and accompanied by the requested items, will be considered. Enclosures should not exceed the length indicated in the attached information sheet.

Awards description and names of previous recipients are available on the web at: <http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Awards/awards.htm>

**List of eligible nominators:

- COSPAR President
- Representatives of COSPAR National Members (<http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/About/natinst.htm>)
- Representatives of COSPAR Scientific Union Members (<http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/About/sciunion.htm>)
- Members of the COSPAR Scientific Advisory Committee (<http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/About/committees.htm#CSAC>)
- COSPAR Scientific Commission and Panel Chairs (<http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Scistr/Scistr.htm>)
- COSPAR Scientific Commission and Panel Vice-Chairs
- Previous recipients of all awards/medals except the Zeldovich and Distinguished Services medals

With my best regards

Inez S. Batista

COSPAR National Representative – Brazil

SOLICITATION:

Call for Nominations for the 2009 Sunanda and Santimay Basu Award the Space Physics and Aeronomy (SPA) Section of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) is seeking nominations for the 2009 Sunanda and Santimay Basu Award. This award is presented annually to honor an individual young scientist from a developing nation for making outstanding contributions to research in Sun-Earth Systems Science that further the understanding of both plasma physical processes and their applications for the benefit of society. The award is open to scientists who received their Ph.D. degree after June 1, 2002 and who live and work in developing nations. Consideration is to be given to candidates who have overcome obstacles in attaining their research objectives.

The Space Physics and Aeronomy Section will invite the recipient to present a paper at AGU's Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California. Travel funds and living expenses will be provided to attend the meeting, where the recipient will also receive a certificate of appreciation and three years' membership to AGU. The award will be presented at the SPA dinner, for which the awardee will receive a complimentary ticket. The awardee will also be announced in Eos.

Nominations should be prepared by an AGU member or other geoscientist who is knowledgeable of the candidate's qualifications and include the following information:

- nominator's name and title, address and contact numbers;
- nominee's name and title, institutional affiliation, and address;
- a statement (not to exceed 2 pages) of the action(s) or achievement(s) for which the candidate is nominated;
- two letters of support from AGU members or from other recognized geoscientists belonging to institutions other than that of the nominee;

- a curriculum vitae (not to exceed 3 pages).

The deadline for receipt of the nomination package is June 2009.

Send nominations to:

American Geophysical Union

Attn: Leadership

2000 Florida Avenue, NW Washington DC 20009 USA

Tel: +1-202-777-7502

E-mail: leadership@agu.org

You can also contact the Chair of the Sunanda and Santimay Basu Award Committee with questions: Professor Jonathan Makela (jmakela@illinois.edu)

Workshop International ILWS

Conforme já noticiado anteriormente aos membros da ALAGE, em outubro deste ano ocorrerá o Workshop International Living with a Star (2009 ILWS). Para mais detalhes visite a webpage do Workshop (<http://www.dge.inpe.br/maghel/ilws/>).

O Dr. Walter Gonzalez, um dos organizadores do evento e o presidente do Comitê Organizador Local (COL), solicitou à ALAGE um levantamento sobre o número de pesquisadores e estudantes que pretendem participar do Workshop. Tal levantamento tem por finalidade subsidiar a preparação das solicitações de auxílio às agências financeiras, com o objetivo de cobrir as despesas locais dos participantes e, em alguns casos, as despesas com passagem aérea.

Solicito a colaboração de vocês para divulgarem esta informação entre a comunidade de geofísica espacial de seus países e o seu empenho para que tal informação retorne ao COL do ILWS o mais breve possível.

Desde já agradeço a colaboração de vocês.

Desde Perú

SAVNET - Perú

Por Walter Guevara Day

La red SAVNET (South America VLF NETwork) ha instalado una nueva estación de la red en la ciudad de ICA, dentro de la Facultad de Agronomía y en acuerdo con la Facultad de Ciencias de la Universidad Nacional San Luis Gonzaga de Ica (UNICA). Este acuerdo ha sido elaborado con el decano de la Facultad de Ciencias de la UNICA y el Dr. Jean-Pierre Raulin del CRAAM/EE de Mackenzie, Brasil con la participación de personal de la CONIDA – Agencia Espacial del Perú y con el apoyo de estudiantes de la Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Seminario Permanente de Astronomía y Ciencias Espaciales-SPACE) y de la UNICA.

Con esta nueva estación se pretende entender mejor los fenómenos relacionados a la actividad solar y la conexión Sol-Tierra y mejorar las capacidades de los profesionales y estudiantes en la región sur del país.

ALERTA DE IRRADIANCIA SOLAR Y AUMENTO ALARMANTE DE RADIACION UV

Por Walter Guevara Day

Desde hace casi tres años estamos registrando valores de índices UV en las alturas de Moquegua (al sur del Perú). Valores que han llegado hasta 16 y por ello hemos alertado a la población y autoridades de esa zona a tomar las medidas necesarias para evitar daños en la población.

La Agencia Espacial Civil Ecuatoriana ha elaborado un informe a finales del año pasado denominado HIPERION sobre los índice UV en latitudes ecuatoriales. En este informe se hace referencia a un aumento alarmante de los valores de índices UV en una franja que cubre las costas y cordilleras de Ecuador, Perú y Chile. Estos valores llegan a valores de 14 (extremadamente alto) y nosotros aquí en CONIDA (Comisión Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo Aeroespacial, Agencia Espacial del Perú) hemos iniciado el monitoreo de estos valores en la ciudad de Lima (que esta al nivel del mar) y estamos encontrando que estos valores de índices UV y de irradiancia solar están llegando a 14 y 1000 Watt/m² respectivamente que son valores alarmantes y peligrosos para la población. Las causas de este fenómeno es el adelgazamiento de la capa de ozono, porqué se ha adelgazado? Hay otras causas? son preguntas que necesitamos responder lo mas pronto posible y por ello solicitamos a la comunidad científica el apoyo para responder estas preguntas elaborando un programa de estudio de este fenómeno.

2. Noticias de interés general

Noticias de la Presidencia

A “Meeting of the Americas”, not to be missed!!

Next year, the AGU Joint Assembly, to be held in Iguassu Falls, Brazil, 08-13 August, 2010, will cover the latest topics in all areas of the Earth, Oceans, Atmosphere, Space and Planetary Sciences.

Visit the site of the Local Organizing Committee with some initial information on the meeting:

www.geophysics2010.org

We encourage all members to contribute with proposals for Sessions and Symposia. Proposals for Sessions/Symposia will have to be submitted directly to the AGU web-site at the end of this year. However, several Symposia are already being planned and can be seen at:

www.geophysics2010.org/program.htm

Mark your calendar and start planning your participation!

a. Próximas reuniones científicas

- 2009 Joint Assembly. The Meeting of the Americas

24–27 May 2009

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

- [Chapman Conference on Abrupt Climate Change](#)
15–19 June 2009, Columbus, Ohio
- [Chapman Conference on the Biological Carbon Pump of the Oceans](#)
1–4 September 2009, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, England
- [Chapman Conference on Examining Ecohydrological Feedbacks of Landscape Change along Elevation Gradients in Semiarid Regions](#)
5–9 October 2009, Sun Valley, Idaho
- [2009 Fall Meeting](#)
14–18 December 2009, San Francisco, California, USA
- **2010**
- [2010 Ocean Sciences Meeting](#)
22–26 February 2010, Portland, Oregon
- [Chapman Conference on Giant Earthquakes and Their Tsunamis](#)
17–24 May 2010, Valparaíso and Valdivia, Chile
- [2010 Meeting of the Americas](#)
08–13 August 2010, Iguassu Falls, Brazil

3. Agradecimientos

Agradecemos a las personas que nos enviaron sus reportes e informes de actividades que están realizando en las diferentes instituciones donde laboran.

4. Mesa Directora ALAGE: 2007-2010

President / Presidente:

Dra. Inez Staciarini Batista

Vice President (President elect) / Vice-presidente (próximo presidente):

Dra. Blanca Mendoza

Exterior Secretary/Secretario del Exterior:

Dr. Mario H. Acuña (R.I.P.)

Information Secretary / Secretario de Información:

Dr. Walter Guevara Day

Treasurer / Tesorero:

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