

# Obituary for Professor Julio Arboleda Florez

Professor Julio Arboleda Florez was a man easy to like and follow. In European terms he had the warmth and immediacy likely to characterize a Mediterranean combined with sense of duty and precision of those from Northern European lands. In global terms he was a proud Latin American in the expanses of the Canadian West, at home in Europe and in Asia, in Africa or Australia.

Julio was a friend whom you could trust and a professional in the best sense of the word. He has been the President of the World Association of Social Psychiatry and of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health, the Chair of the Forensic section of the World Psychiatric Association and the Head of the PAHO/WHO Psychiatric Epidemiology Unit at Queen's University. Active in academic life he was Professor and Chair of Psychiatry of the University of Calgary and later took the position of Professor of Psychiatry in Kingston. In all these roles he performed brilliantly and left a long and lasting positive impression of his work.

At the beginning of the WPA World program against stigma Julio was leading the Calgary team and served on the Steering Committee of the program. This offered me an opportunity to see and understand why he was a popular and effective leader. Careful consideration of all proposals, respect for the opinion of others, search for a productive compromise, constant good mood and humour, and never taking himself too seriously, were all lessons one could learn from him.

Julio's achievements and contributions to the field were made possible by his many talents and capacities, strengthened and solidified by the partnership with Heather, his spouse, friend and collaborator. They travelled together, worked together and produced wonderful things together. We should be

grateful to both of them for all that they have done, and for exemplifying how fruitful good partnerships can be.

I shall miss Julio and I shall not be the only one to feel that way. The best way to respond to the feeling of loss that he is no longer with us will be to honour what he has done, and to continue to work on the subjects of human and scientific value that were close to his heart,

Norman Sartorius