

*Editorial***Dr. Helio Bello**

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(4<sup>th</sup> September, 1919 – 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2015)

The Brazilian electroencephalography (EEG) loses one of its founders, on the last 26<sup>th</sup> March, and his many disciples and friends make their farewells to this keen intellectual, irreverent and generous personage.

Helio de Paiva Bello was born in 1919 in the city of Piquete, Sao Paulo, son of Mercedes de Paiva Lacerda and Raul da Cunha Bello, a medical officer, the parents of four children, only one girl. He has been married three times, and he had six children. In the city of Rio de Janeiro, Bello completed his formal education and his graduation at the National School of Medicine of the University of Brazil (FNM-UB), in 1943. Regarding his background in EEG, his first steps stemmed from the Brazilian pioneer Neurology Institute where he studied with Hiss Martins Ferreira, from 1949 to 1952. His EEG further professional education was acquired from Abram Mosovich, in Buenos Aires (1952), Bartolomé Fuster, in Montevideo (1952), and Henri Gastaut, in Marseille (1956-1958). The latter was one of the most influential in Bello's career, besides his professional and friendly interaction with the outstanding neurosurgeon founder of the Brazilian League Against Epilepsy, Paulo Niemeyer, and Abraham Akerman, one of the first president of this Society.

Bello's legacy is significant and pioneer. He provided several contributions to the electroencephalography, mainly his large classical Electroencephalography School established at the Casa de Saúde Dr. Eiras. He trained more than 100 clinical neurophysiologists from almost all Brazilian States, and three from abroad (two from Paraguay and one from Algeria). This was done in his particular way of teaching by mixing technical concepts and the wisdom of a philosopher and medical scientist. He collaborated also with the cradle of the Brazilian functional neurosurgery led by Paulo Niemeyer, his long-life friend and collaborator, who introduced in Brazil the electrocorticography and the electrographic exploration with implanted electrodes (in the Santa Casa de Misericórdia of Rio de Janeiro). In 1953, Paulo Niemeyer and Helio Bello documented the technique of electrocorticography in a 16-mm color film entitled *Electrocorticography in cerebral tumors*. Paulo Niemeyer, in 1958, published with Helio Bello's collaboration, the new technique of the amygdalohippocampectomy for refractory seizures due to mesial temporal sclerosis. In consequence of this type of surgery and search for a temporal focus, Bello used for more than 40 years, TI and T2 electrodes to record the electrical activity of the anterior

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temporal brain regions. In 1954, Bello already presented some of his findings related to this subject. Paulo Pinto Pupo was the chairman of the Meeting of the South American Society of EEG which took place in São Paulo. Bello and Manoel Barreto Neto presented at this Meeting the Electrographic and anatomopathological correlations of focal epilepsy. They studied the histopathological changes in the cortical regions of six cases where the electrocorticogram revealed seizure activity. Their findings displayed a coincidence between the EEG foci in areas that presented damaged nerve cells in the midst of normal tissue. Bello was also the inspirer and the mentor of many of his disciples and their works. The book *Eletroencefalografia — Fundamentos*, under

his patronage, brought together several of his disciples, admirers and representatives of EEG of Rio de Janeiro. He was associated to important national and international societies of epilepsy and clinical neurophysiology among them may be cited Brazilian Society of Clinical Neurophysiology, where he was emeritus member and one of its founders.

We represent all those that pay tribute to the master, as well as to his family with our condolences, but also our congratulations for the illustrious and beloved Bello.

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