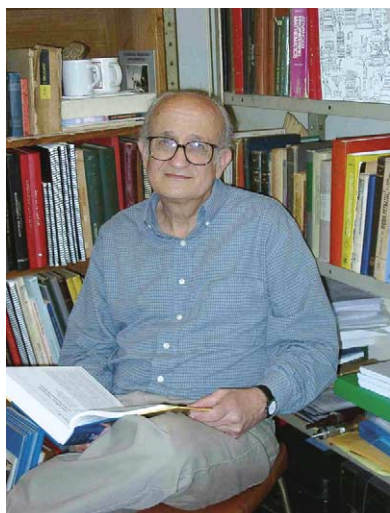


Obituary

Giulio Massarani (December 1937–September 2004)



We would like to dedicate this Special Issue to the memory of our colleague and close friend Giulio Massarani of COPPE, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who shortly after participating in the Conference suffered a brain stroke from which he could not recover.

Giulio was born in Rome, Italy, and moved with his family to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with 1 year of age. He graduated in Chemical Engineering at the University of Brazil and obtained a M.Sc. degree, under the supervision of Professor Frank M. Tiller, at the University of Houston and a Ph.D. degree from the University Paul Sabatier in Toulouse, France, in 1971. Giulio participated, together with Alberto Luiz Coimbra and other collaborators, in the creation of the first Graduate Program in Engineering at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. COPPE/UFRJ is today the greatest research and study center in engineering in Latin America. During his 39 years of work in COPPE, Giulio supervised 55 M.Sc. and 18 Ph.D. Theses. He founded the “National workshop on flow through porous media ENEMP (Encontro Nacional sobre Escoamento em Meios Poroso)”, one of the most important workshops on the subject worldwide, which has had its 31 version this year.

A strong and important research on particulate systems and flow through porous media was going on in Brazil in the

1970s. At COPPE/UFRJ, Giulio and several researchers and graduate students were involved in the application of the Theory of Mixtures of Continuum Mechanics to particulate systems. His work had great influence in the development of the field of solid-liquid separation. Their findings gave sedimentation and filtration a rigorous phenomenological foundation. Giulio collaborated permanently with several institutions in United States, France and Chile.

Giulio was supposed to come to Chile to deliver a short course. On September 14, he sent the following mail: “Caro Fernando, gostaria, sim, de dar um curso em Concepción, mas isto só seria possível depois do ENEMP (Uberlândia), final de outubro. Até lá, por causa das disciplinas e da orientação de tese, só posso deixar o Rio por uns 3 dias. Tema: Dinâmica de sistemas particulados em fluidos não newtoniano. Modéstia à parte, o assunto é lindo. Um abraço Giulio”. He died on September 28, 2004.

One of Giulio’s characteristics was his fine sense of humor. He considered himself a “sorcerer’s apprentice” (aprentiz de feiteiro). At one interview he said: “I wake up every day with a great disposition to work. I could already retire, but am not willing to. Normally one retires for several reasons; one is when the head and the legs do not function anymore. The great art is to know when to retire. For me, it is when you begin not to understand your colleagues. Then, the time has come for the new generation. When I go, I pretend to go entirely, in one piece, and not by half, because I find this half-leaving dubious ethically”.

Giulio leaves wife, Edna, three daughters, Mariana, Luisa and Susana, son, Paulo, and grandson Daniel.

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