

# Organic Process Research & Development

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## *Editorial*

### **Octavio Augusto Ceva Antunes**

It is with great sadness that we have to report the loss of Octavio in the Air France disaster on June 1, 2009. Octavio was well-known to readers of *Organic Process Research & Development* (OPRD) and *Highlights from the Literature*, where he was an enthusiastic contributor on such topics as green chemistry, biocatalytic processes, and biodiesel manufacture. Octavio was on his way to France, with his wife Patricia, and 3-year old son Matthew to spend the month of June as a visiting professor at the University of Cergy-Pontoise in the Selective Organic Synthesis and Bioorganic Chemistry Laboratory (SOSCO).

Octavio was a remarkable person; he spent 10 years in industry in Brazil before moving into academic life, which he embraced with great enthusiasm, not just as a researcher but also as an inspired teacher. Students remember him for his unique teaching methods and for his willingness to work with the less able students and bring them up to high standards.

In his researches, the variety of his interests was remarkable as was his productivity. His publications range from organic (definitely green organic) chemistry, to biocatalysis, to anti-AIDS drugs, and to biodiesel manufacture. With his wife Patricia, he also had publications on analytical methods. In 19 years as a Professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, he published more than 200 papers and was named on 23 patents. He is also the author of several book chapters.

He was a consultant to many companies and served as an Advisor to the WHO on anti-HIV/-AIDS drugs from 2004 to 2008.

He will be remembered as a brilliant but gentle man with a wide range of interests, who inspired students, postgraduates, and postdoctoral co-workers from all over the world.

For other tributes see [www.biodieselbr.com/blog/donato/2009](http://www.biodieselbr.com/blog/donato/2009) as well as other sites that can be found by searching on the Internet for Octavio Augusto Ceva Antunes.

Trevor Laird  
*Editor*

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