

In memoriam: Luis Alfonso del Río (1943-2025)

With deep sorrow, we have to communicate that Professor Luis Alfonso del Río passed away on November 18th, 2025. Dr. del Río was born in Asturias, Spain, on December 13th, 1943, and spent most of his scientific career at the Estación Experimental del Zaidín (Spanish National Research Council) in Granada, Spain.

Dr. del Río made a great contribution to the peroxisomal metabolism, both in plant and animal systems, since he started his earlier works in peroxisomes from pea leaves. Thus, he characterized for the first time a peroxisomal manganese-containing superoxide dismutase (SOD), and reported other peroxisomal SODs as well as their influence in the cell metabolism. His findings opened new avenues for these organelles to address the investigation in animals, plants, and yeasts, especially under stress/disease conditions. Based on his contributions, a very productive research field on oxidative metabolism of peroxisomes began, whose results were referred worldwide. His outstanding works on the localization and identification of nitric oxide (NO), NADPH, and proteolytic metabolism in peroxisomes were pioneering and placed him as a leading international scientist in the field.

Professor Luis A. del Río was also a distinguished member of the Plant Oxygen Group (POG) and the Spanish Group for Free Radical Research (GEIRLI), and chaired congresses for both groups in 1998 in Granada, Spain. At a personal level, he was an excellent person who conquered the heart of all colleagues he met. His silhouette with a smart hat is the portrait that will remain in the minds of those who were trapped by his politeness and charm.

Rest in peace.

