
Guatemalan Science and Technology Medal 2010: Guatemala recognizes Noel Solomons' research efforts

On December 13, 2010, Dr Rafael Espada, Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala, presented the National Science and Technology Medal for 2010 to Dr Noel W. Solomons in recognition of his scientific research in the area of nutrition, and its significant contributions to health in the country. The National Council of Science and Technology (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia

y Tecnología, CONCYT) introduced this annual award in 1997 to recognize outstanding and meritorious research with a social impact for Guatemala.

Accompanied at the ceremony by the President of the National Legislature, Congressman José Roberto Alejos Cámara, and the Director of the National Council for Science and Technology, Dr Rosa María

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López Amaya, Dr Espada congratulated Dr Solomons, and confirmed that his work has helped the country to make progress in inspiring its youth and strengthening the integrity of its people through the education of science and technology.

Dr Solomons graduated as a physician at Harvard University, USA, in 1970, and has dedicated much of his professional life to nutrition research in Guatemala. He has more than 35 years' experience in teaching nutrition at various international universities, as well as the University of San Carlos de Guatemala and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama. Among the many professional societies, of which he is a member, he is currently active in the American Society for Nutrition, the Latin American Society for Nutrition (SLAN) and the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans. He serves on ten editorial boards, including that of Nutriview.

His research has had a significant impact on child nutrition policies at national and international levels, influencing the decisions of Guatemala's Ministry of Public Health and Welfare to improve nutrition in children and the concept of standards and nutrition interventions. It has also had a significant impact on the establishment of policies and programs to promote positive early nutritional efforts to prevent obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in adults, allowing to develop comprehensive strategies aimed at reducing



Congressman José Roberto Alejos Cámara (left), Dr Rosa María López Amaya, and Dr Espada congratulate Dr Solomons at the award ceremony

chronic diseases, including cancer. Findings from his institute, CeSSIAM, currently serve to promote the fortification of sugar with vitamin A (one of the most important achievements and contributions to public health in the country).

Recently his research has focused on the nutritional impact of the economic downturn, natural disasters and environmental pollution, including the potential health problem of water consumption by school children. He has also pioneered research on the effects of nutrition in the elderly, urban nutrition in the tropics, and cardiovascular risk factors in the elderly.

Translated and adapted from the Vice-President's report (<http://www.vicepresidencia.gob.gt/v2/content/medalla-de-la-ciencia-y-tecnolog%C3%AD-para-el-doctor-noel-w-solomons>)