

Tribute to Dr. Luis Velásquez Jones

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Dr. Luis Fernando Velásquez Jones was born on 22 August 1942 in the city of Trujillo in northern Peru. He was the fourth of six children born to Dr. Gonzalo A. Velásquez Pérez and Mrs. Blanca Jones de Velásquez. He completed his primary and secondary education at the San Carlos and San Marcelo Seminary School in his hometown, where he stood out for his intelligence and academic achievement. He studied

medicine at the *Universidad Nacional de Trujillo* from 1962 to 1967, graduating at the top of his class.

At the suggestion of his brother-in-law, Dr. Javier Medina, he traveled to Mexico to complete his pediatric residency at the *Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez*, where he later specialized in pediatric nephrology from 1972 to 1974. After completing his training, he worked as a staff physician in the Nephrology

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Department under Dr Gustavo Gordillo Paniagua. He was the coordinator of the nephrology program at UNAM and co-authored the textbook on pediatric nephrology published by the Association of Physicians of the *Hospital Infantil de México*, which remained a reference in Latin American pediatric nephrology for decades¹.

He returned to Peru in 1976 to accept a coveted position as staff pediatrician and professor at the University of Cayetano Heredia, where he remained until 1978. During this time, he performed the first pediatric dialysis in Peru and reported on acute kidney injury caused by brown recluse spider bites².

In 1979, he decided to return to Mexico with his family and worked as Head of the Medical Assistance Department at the General Directorate of Medical Services of the UNAM until 1984, when Dr. Felipe Mota Hernández invited him to join the staff of the new Oral Hydration Department at the *Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez*. There he actively contributed to the knowledge generated in this field. In 1986, he completed a one-month fellowship in India as part of a health research program sponsored by the World Health Organization and the *British Medical Journal*, where he received training in research methodology and biostatistics. In June 1989, he was inducted into the Mexican Academy of Medicine for his proposal of a new oral rehydration solution for infants with diarrhea³.

In 1988, he joined the Department of Medicine at the *Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez*, along with Dr. José Domingo Gamboa Marrufo and Dr. Antonio Zamora Chávez, a unit where difficult cases were admitted. Under these three giants of Mexican pediatrics, accurate diagnosis and treatment were always achieved.

In 1991, he was invited to join the Department of Pediatric Nephrology as a staff physician and researcher as part of the project of the new head of the department, Dr. Ricardo Muñoz Arizpe. He later served as head of this department from 2012 to 2015 and remained as a specialist until his retirement in 2018.

During his extensive career at the hospital, in addition to contributing to the training of pediatricians, pediatric internists, and nephrologists, he developed numerous research projects, published 267 articles in indexed journals, authored 108 book chapters, wrote 25 books, and served as editor or co-editor of four books.

Among his influential books that have played an important role in the training of pediatricians are *Alteraciones hidroelectrolíticas en pediatría* (Electrolyte Disorders in Pediatrics), which has had three editions, the most recent in 2017⁴, and *Redacción del Escrito Médico* (Writing Medical Documents), which has had five editions⁵.

Among his countless contributions to pediatric nephrology, the use of intravenous nitroprusside for the treatment of severe hypertension⁶, the description of the first cases of nephropathic cystinosis in Mexico⁷, and the use of mineralocorticoid blockade to prevent the progression of chronic nephropathy in kidney transplantation, a study registered as a clinical trial and funded by CONACYT⁸, are noteworthy.

The *Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez* held a well-deserved tribute on October 8, 2024, to this distinguished and illustrious pediatric nephrologist who, as Dr. Jesús Kumate said, chose to stay in our country, being "Mexico's gain and Peru's loss". The tribute can be viewed on the institution's Facebook page⁹.

Dr. Velásquez Jones was actively involved in the medical publications department of the *Hospital Infantil de México Federico Gómez* since 1981, first as associate editor and later as head of the *Departamento de Ediciones Médicas* (Medical Publishing Department) from 1984 to 2005 and as editor-in-chief of the *Boletín Médico del Hospital Infantil de México*.

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