



# From the curves of Santos Road to the world: A tribute to Yara Dadalti Fragoso

Patrick Emanuell Mesquita Sousa-Santos<sup>1</sup> , Raimundo Pereira Silva-Néto<sup>2</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP), Botucatu, Brasil

<sup>2</sup>Universidade Federal do Delta do Parnaíba, Parnaíba, Brasil



Patrick Mesquita Sousa-Santos  
patrickemanuell@gmail.com

**Edited by:**

Marcelo Moraes Valença



**Figure 1.** Yara Dadalti Fragoso (1957-2022)

Recently, we were surprised by the unexpected sad news that Dr. Yara Dadalti Fragoso (1957–2022) left us prematurely. She died on November 19, 2022. About three weeks before, she was chair of the 36th Brazilian Congress of Headache, in Santos, her loved city. In her opening speech, she mentioned how happy she was of hosting the congress in her hometown, after two years without face-to-face meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The congress was successful, as expected by everyone who knew Yara's competence (in the following paragraphs she will be called by her first name). She began her academic career in 1981 with medical graduation from Faculty of Medical Sciences of Santos, São Paulo, Brazil. Four years later, she became a neurologist at the Public Servant Hospital, in São Paulo, Brazil. At the end of the 1980s, she went to live in Scotland, where she continued her education with master's and doctorate at molecular and cell biology from University of Aberdeen, besides a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Aberdeen, Scotland.

In 1995, Yara returned to Brazil starting his work in one of her passions: teaching. She became a professor of medicine at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of Santos, and later at the Metropolitan University of Santos, where she remained until the end of her career. She has served as a researcher in two main areas of neurology: headache and neuroimmunology.

Submitted: December 03, 2022

Accepted: December 15, 2022

Published online: December 30, 2022



Yara was a distinguished in the research of multiple sclerosis during pregnancy. Furthermore, she was coordinator of Multiple Sclerosis & Headache Research and the Brazilian center in the MSBase international multiple sclerosis registry. In addition, she was a representative of Brazil in the Latin American Group of Multiple Sclerosis and worked for more than 15 years in clinical trials phase III and IV. Her research has helped countless patients with multiple sclerosis.

In the headache study, Yara was one of the most active members of the Brazilian Headache Society (BHS). Her first article was published in 1988, in *Cephalalgia*: a case report on hemicrania continua.<sup>1</sup> Since then, she has written nine other articles in partnership with Dr. Ottar Sjaastad, who died in 2022.<sup>2</sup> There were more than 240 articles published, being one of the authors who most published in the history of the *Migrâneas & Cefaleias* and *Headache Medicine* journals (publications of BHS) according to research carried out by Silva-Néto.<sup>3</sup> One of his texts with recommendations for headache patients during the Covid pandemic was the most accessed article in 2020 on the BHS website. She was a visionary and enthusiastic about the new generations. Chaired the BHS students and residents committee since its creation in 2019, until her last days of life. Her last major act at BHS was chairing the 36th Brazilian Headache Congress in 2022. In a scenario of challenges and uncertainties, Yara was like a bridge over troubled waters with her determination and courage.

Yara's legacy affects many students, colleagues, patients, family members and friends, in such a big and profound way that it is impossible to measure its importance for

Brazilian neurology. Her example transcends the poetic curves of the Santos Road and inspires neurologists around the world. It is difficult to find words to express all the greatness and generosity of this great woman. She was generous beyond words, happy, smiling, intelligent, and just special to be around.

Thanks for everything, Yara!

Patrick Mesquita Sousa-Santos

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7729-7303>

Raimundo Pereira Silva-Néto

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2343-9679>

**Contribution authors:** All authors had the same contribution.

**Funding:** No

**Conflict of interests:** The authors report no conflict of interest.

---

## References

1. Fragoso YD, Hannuch S, Carvalho D and Jenger K. **Hemicrania continua: a case report.** *Cephalalgia* 1986; 9(3): 171-174 Doi: 10.1046/j.1468-2982.1987.0703171.x.
2. Silva-Néto RP and Valença MM. **Thank you Sjaastad (1928-2022) for everything we learned from you.** *Headache Medicine* 2022;13(3):158-159 Doi:10.48208/HeadacheMed.2022.13.
3. Silva-Néto RP. **The journal *Migrâneas & Cefaleias*: fifteen years of history.** *Migrâneas & cefaléias* 2009;12(2):44-49.