

Professor RUY E. PINTO (1924- ) was born in Lisbon and graduated in Physics and Chemistry by the University of Lisbon in 1953. From 1956 to 1958 he worked at the University of Oxford under the supervision of Prof. Sir Hans Krebs (Nobel Prize) on the oxidation of glutathione. In 1966 he got a PhD in Chemistry at the University of Lisbon and in 1969 he got a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Sheffield (UK). From 1976 until 1979 he was the head of the Department of Biology at the Laboratory of Physics and Nuclear Engineering (LFEN). In 1974, he started Biochemistry at the Department of Chemistry of the University of Lisbon, becoming Full Professor in 1979. During several periods dating from 1992 he supervised several PhD thesis in different Research Institutions, in particular at the "Instituto Bento da Rocha Cabral" from which in 1996 he became its Director.

His main scientific achievement is the finding that the oxidation of glutathione in biological systems is enzymatic process, ending a three-decade period in which this process was considered to be non-enzymatic, and the first person to write the oxidation-reduction cycle of glutathione. These works influenced several generations of Biochemists and thus it can be said that Professor Pinto work helped to form the basis for a new area of investigation in Biochemistry, the redox regulation of biological systems.

Another relevant activity to which he dedicated much of his energy and enthusiasm was the launching of the graduation in Biochemistry at the University of Lisbon. Today, many of his students are playing important roles in Portugal by developing new areas of research in Biochemistry.

He is still involved in experimental and theoretical research namely focused in the Biochemistry of Oxygen, Sulfur and Selenium. He published over 70 papers in international-peer reviewed journals and about 100 communications were presented to National and International scientific meetings.

Professor Ruy Pinto likes also to dissert about Philosophy of Sciences and as a hobby he enjoys to paint.