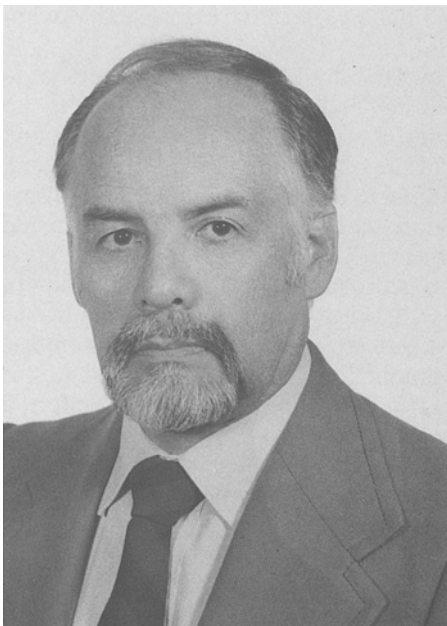


Fernando Rueda Franco



Fernando Rueda-Franco was born in Mexico City on 27 June 1936, to Colonel (Medical Corps) Fernando Rueda-Magro and Matilde Franco. His father, a career medical corps officer, died prematurely at 46 years of age in 1943, but his mother was blessed with a long life and was able to see all of her children complete their studies and undertake their life's activities.

Fernando's father was awarded a degree in medicine from the Military Medical School in Mexico in 1923, going on immediately thereafter to serve his country along the border with the United States before moving to Europe to travel widely in Spain, France, Germany, and Italy. In Paris he studied in many hospitals: Hôtel Dieu, Saint Louis, Hôpital Foch, Hôpital Necker. He also spent an extended period of time at the Charité in Berlin, when this institution was in the forefront of medical practice in the world. Upon his return to Mexico, he founded the first hospital for the special care of patients with tuberculosis in 1934, the year he married; but his life was

cut short after only 9 years, leaving Matilde a widow with three children aged 7, 6, and 4 years.

Although Matilde came from a very wealthy family (her father owned a silver mine) and lived her childhood during very stable political times in Mexico, her parents did not prepare her for the life of a wage-earner since their orientation had been that women should marry and stay home to raise children and care for the house. Consequently, when her family lost all their possessions during the Mexican revolution (1910–1917), she was without economic independence.

Fernando attended public schools in Mexico City, graduating from the National Preparatory School, a part of the University of Mexico, in 1953, at which time he went on to medical school. He received his degree in Medicine and Surgery in 1960, after successfully defending his thesis "Blood Circulation of the Brain and Arteriovenous Malformations of the Brain". His thesis was prepared under the tutelage of Professor Manuel Velasco-Suarez, the pioneer Mexican neurosurgeon and founder of the Neurological Institute in Mexico.

In order to support his studies and pay for his room and board from the very beginning of his preparatory school enrollment, Dr. Rueda-Franco worked in a soft-drink factory. Subsequently, in medical school, he worked in a private hospital owned by one of his father's students, Dr. Rogelio Melgar. As time passed Rueda-Franco's activities became those of an intern and house officer until the time of his graduation from medical school. In Mexico, as in most Latin-American countries, upon graduation from medical school the student must work for a variable period of time for the government in a social services capacity. Fernando Rueda-Franco served the Mexican people in Cazes de Herrera in the State of Veracruz.

In January of 1960, he became an Assistant to Dr. Miguel Ramos Murguía, chief of the service at the Children's Hospital of Mexico City, proceeding then with a rotating internship and a year of general surgery prior to his residency in neurosurgery under Dr. Ramos-Murguía. By the time he finished his neurosurgical training in

1967, he had also completed a 1-year visiting fellowship at the New York Neurological Institute. During the interval between the end of his neurosurgical training and his appointment as Chief of the Neurosurgical Service at the new Children's Hospital in Mexico City – 1969 through 1970 – he worked in the children's hospital of Chihuahua, in northern Mexico.

Fernando Rueda-Franco became full Professor of Neurology at the University of Mexico in 1971, and Associate Professor of Neurosurgery in the same institution in 1977, at which time he began to accept rotating residents from the National Institute of Neurology. Then, in 1978, he began a training program in pediatric neurosurgery, which amounted to a pediatric neurosurgical fellowship, accepting candidates who had already completed their general neurosurgical training. It is of interest to know that the new Children's Hospital of Mexico City became the National Institute of Pediatrics in 1979. Since then, the candidates for the fellowship certificate in pediatric neurosurgery at the National Institute of Pediatrics work with Professor Rueda-Franco for 2 years.

Rueda-Franco was elected to the Presidency of the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery in 1984, serving in that capacity until 1985. As a tribute to his executive capacities and organizational gifts, he was elected Secretary of that Society in 1988 and then again in 1992! He has been a member of the Mexican Board of Neurological Surgery since 1983, and served that board as its President during the period 1984–1985, again moving on to the role of Secretary in 1989. He was President of the IX Mexican Congress of Neurological Surgery in 1985, President of the Annual Congress of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery at its Mexico City Meeting in 1985, Chairman of the Education Committee of the ISPN in 1987 and again 1989, and then became President of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery in 1990. During the period 1986–1991, he served as Secretary of the Federación Latinoamericana de Neurocirugía. Currently he is the secretary General of the X International Congress of Neurological Surgery which will take place in Acapulco, Mexico, in October 1993.

During his academic career Professor Rueda-Franco has published 37 papers or chapters on neurosurgical subjects.

Professor Rueda-Franco's wife, Lourdes, was also born in Mexico. They have two daughters, Lourdes and Gabriela, both of whom are married with children, so that Fernando now has four grandchildren. His brother, German, is a business administrator in Guadalajara and his sister, Lieutenant Colonel Maria Eugenia, is a pathol-

ogist in the U.S. Medical Corps, assigned to the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Fernando's hobbies – one might say passions – are all cultural: history, geography, the fine arts, sculpture, paintings, the lives of the great geniuses. Because of the dire economic situation of his early youth he was not able to travel outside Mexico until 1966, when he obtained the fellowship to the New York Neurological Institute. At that time, he had his first opportunity to enter into the magnificent world of . . . museums. He walked, as it were, into what has become his lifetime avocation: exploring the worlds of knowledge and modeling of elements into artistic forms. Through a fortuitous friendship with Professor Gonzalo Obregon, Fernando became an habitué of archeological and historical sites, falling in love particularly with the romanesque and gothic art styles of Europe, Egyptian culture, and the arts of Asia. He was fortunate enough to realize his dreams to visit Toledo, Salamanca, and Granada in Spain; Paris, Laon, Véselay, and Dijon in France; Rome, Florence, Urbino in Italy; Srinagar, Agra, and Benares in India; Cuzco and Machu-Pichu in Peru.

From all his travels and all his visits to museums, to castles and cathedrals and churches and chalets, to mountains, Fernando Rueda-Franco has come to thank God for having had the opportunity to see first-hand all of the wonders he dreamed of in early manhood. However, he is quick to state that he is most happy and proud of the friends he has made. Very impressed with the great strides made within neurosurgery during the 3rd and 4th generations of the 20th century, he is still glad that he has never allowed himself to stray away from the humanities. Rather, the quotation he finds most moving and most in harmony with his own nature is from Jaroslav Seifert, a Czechoslovakian poet and Nobel Laureate in literature, in 1985: "I gaze in amazement at the leaps of the human spirit in the fields of science and technology. These deeds will certainly fill the minds of the whole world so that the question of necessity and need of poetry, the novel and art in general offers itself and finally has already arisen now. I do not believe these voices, however. From the remote depths of the Bible there come the old verses of the Preacher: the greater the knowledge, the greater the pain. And is mankind happier?" Always inviting those about him to seek to learn more and to find knowledge of culture an end to itself, Fernando Rueda-Franco closes by stating "Jaroslav Seifert's poetry might provide the answer to this question."

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