

Salvador M. Fernandez

Salvador M. Fernandez, a physicist, educator and inventor who founded the East Hartford-based research and development company Ciencia, died Thursday, (August 17, 2006) at his home in Hartford after a sudden heart attack. He was 63 years old. He is survived by Peter B. Morier, his beloved companion of 25 years. He will be remembered for his generosity, sense of humor and a sensitivity that enabled him to touch the lives of all who knew him. Dr. Fernandez was born in Guantanamo, Cuba on March 14, 1943, the son of the late Salvador and Onelia Mola Fernandez. Sal emigrated from Cuba to the United States in 1962 and began his undergraduate studies at Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. and subsequently at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. After finishing his B.A. in Physics at Wayne State, Salvador moved to Eastern Connecticut. He took his M.S. in Physics in 1968 and a Ph.D in Physics in 1973 at the University of Connecticut, in Storrs. From 1973 to 1975, Dr. Fernandez was a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Department of Anatomy at the University of Connecticut Health Center- School of Medicine in Farmington, and from 1975 to 1983 he was Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology at the UConn Health Center. His association with UConn continued for many years and at the time of his death he was an Adjunct Research Professor of Physics. From 1983 to 1987 Dr. Fernandez was President and Chief Scientific Officer of Chimerix Corporation, Glastonbury, a Medical Diagnostics firm he founded. From 1988 to 1992 he was Director of Immunodiagnosics at Scientific Research Associates in Glastonbury. Dr. Fernandez had numerous publications in professional refereed journals, and co-edited the book "Fast Methods on Physical Biochemistry and Cell Biology" with Ramadan I. Sha'afi and published in 1983. In 1992, Sal founded Ciencia, a company that designs and develops scientific instruments where he served as the president and CEO until his death. Ciencia has received grants and contracts from a number of government agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, NASA, the National Science Foundation, The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense. In 2000, Ciencia received an EPA Outstanding Small Business Enterprise award. Ciencia was a founding member of the Connecticut Technology Council. Dr. Fernandez held a number of patents, and was on several Industrial Advisory Boards. Sal lived in the Hartford's West End for the last 25 years. He was an active hiker and scaled much of the White Mountain Range. He was also an accomplished chef, art collector, sailor, and avid gardener. He was actively committed to the support of the Hartford Stage Company and enjoyed traveling throughout America and Europe. Donations may be made in memory of Dr. Salvador M. Fernandez to support the Student Academic Enhancement Fund at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Please make checks payable to: The UConn Foundation, Inc. and forward to the following address: UConn Foundation/Health Center, 10 Talcott Notch Road, Suite 100, Farmington, CT 06032.