

## Obituary of Prof. Cheila Gonçalves Mothé

I met first time Professor Mothé during the ICTAC Congress organized by NATAS in Orlando in 2016. She presented a lecture entitled “Kinetic Study of Thermal Degradation Mechanism and Lifetime Prediction of Cashew Polysaccharide” during a section I chaired. What immediately impressed me was the passion in exhibiting her research results and her enthusiasm that these results were linked to a product (Cashew gum) of her land, Brazil. She started her academic journey back in the early 70’s in the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, graduating in Chemical Engineering. In 1976 she was invited by Prof. Paulo Costa Pereira to be an Assistant Professor at the Department Technological Chemistry. She obtained her master degree in Polymer Science and Technology Program, from 1979 to 1983, under the mentorship of Prof. Chaki Azuma, conducting her work about synthesis of photosensitive polymers, an innovative subject at the time. In 1992 she graduate a D.Sc from University of São Paulo - Brazil/ University of the Air – Japan, having her thesis entitled “Synthesis, characterization and thermoanalytical study of phenolic resins isolated from cashew nut shell liquid”. She had the mentorship of the prestigious Prof. Ivo Giolito, who was one of the pioneers in the introduction and dissemination of thermal analysis in Brazil.

She did her first post-doctoral training at Cornell University in 1998, at Food Science Department headed by awarded Emeritus Prof. M. Andy Rao. The publication of the textbook “Thermal Analysis of Materials” in 2002 certainly solidify Prof. Mothé contribution about some of her most relevant experimental research regarding thermal analysis to the Brazilian scientific community. At the Cleveland State University, in 2003, she went on to do her second post-doctoral training under the guidance of Prof. Alan Riga, to study thermal analysis of polymeric bio membranes. The year 2005 was a very unique year in her career, because she became the first black titular female professor at UFRJ approved by public concourse. Her accomplished will be register in the history of the university as an example of hard work, dedication, resilience and courage. Her professional activities, besides a full professor at university, included Regional Editor of JTAC (2012-2020); NATAS Member and Volunteer (2001-2017); Honorary Member of the Group of the Hungarian Chemical Thermoanalytical Society (2010); CNPq ad hoc consuler for more than 10 years; Fellow of the African Scientific Institute (2011-2020); President and Vice of the Brazilian Society of Science and Technology RJ Food Regional (2007–2017); President of the Brazilian Association of Rheology (2010-2020); Vice-President and President of Brazilian Association of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (2008-2020). Coordinator of three laboratories: Natural and Synthetic Polymers Technology, Rheology Laboratory and Thermal Analysis Laboratory at UFRJ/Brazil. She received many awards during her whole life, confirming her excellence in research, Metanor/Copenor de Química Award (1986); Honorable Mention (1986, 1989, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2005, 2011, 2013 and 2017); Chemical Award of the Year and Medal (2006) by CRQ-Brazil; 1st place XI Award Abrafati-Petrobras Science in Paint (2008); Leopoldo Hartmann Award (2010); Oscar Niemeyer Award de Trabalhos Científicos e Tecnológicos - CREA-RJ (2013); Inovação ValorPneu Award (2nd place, 2015), Lisbon/Portugal; 16th ICTAC Award, FL/USA (2nd place, 2016). During her life she had more than 400 works published in national and international journals and congresses and she was author of 10 books and deposited over 10 patents. She dedicated most of her research to study polymers, polyssaccharides, and sustainable materials development. One of her major accomplished could be attributed to the *Anacardium Occidentale L.*, most known as cashew, in which she performed an extensive study approaching different part including cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL), pseudofruit, exsudate and cashew gum. She worked actively during her whole life at university dedicated to teaching, with more than 10,000 class time, and encouraging her students to believe in the importance of a good and ethical scientific research to promote the technical scientific development of her country.

Prof. Mothé was very much admired by her colleagues, students and acknowledged by her many accomplished. She had a brilliant mind and at the same time she was a humble, kind with generous heart person to assist anyone who ask for her guidance. AICAT offers heartfelt condolences to her two daughters Michelle and Danielle and her husband Heitor. I personally will never forget his contagious smile.



Prof. Cheila Gonçalves Mothé during the ICTAC 16