

Dr. Mirta Roses Periago

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Doctor Mirta Roses Periago, born in Argentina, received her medical degree from the National University of Córdoba in 1969 and a diploma in public health (1973) with a concentration in epidemiology (1981) and a certificate of specialization in infectious diseases from the University of Buenos Aires (1976). She also studied tropical medicine at Bahia State Federal University in Brazil (1971).

Dr. Roses began her career in Córdoba, Argentina, as a staff physician in the Rawson Hospital and as a teaching assistant instructor at the National University in the Departments of Preventive and Social Medicine and of Infectious Diseases. She participated in the Research Program on Argentine Hemorrhagic Fever in Pergamino, Buenos Aires Province. In 1974, she joined Argentina's Ministry of Public Health.

She became a Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) staff member in 1984 as coordinator of the Epidemiology Unit of the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC) in Trinidad and Tobago.

In 1986, Dr. Roses was transferred to the Dominican Republic, as Advisor in Epidemiology, and was promoted to PAHO/WHO Representative to the country in 1988. At the completion of her mission, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Central University of the East and Honorary Professorship by the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo.

From July 1992 to January 1995 she served as the PAHO/WHO Representative in Bolivia, where she was awarded the Armed Forces Order of Marshal Santa Cruz, the Order of Bolívar the Liberator, the Merit in Agriculture and the Presidential Order of Public Health, and named an Honorary Professor by the University of San Andrés.

In 1995, she was appointed Assistant Director of PAHO, joining the World Health Organization's Director Program Management Group and Global Program Management Group.

In September 2002, Dr. Roses was elected Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau by the countries of the Hemisphere. She took office on 1 February 2003, becoming the first Argentine and first woman to hold that position in the world's oldest health public agency, founded in 1902. In September 2007, she was reelected as Director of the Organization.

Dr. Roses has been the recipient of numerous honors--among them, honorary doctorates from the National University of Córdoba in Argentina, the Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University, the *Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, México*, and the ISALUD University in Argentina. She has also been awarded Spain's Order of Public Health, Ecuador's National Order of Honorato Vásquez (High Officer); Nicaragua's Order of José de Marcoleta and Pedro Joaquín Chamorro Order of Liberty; Dominican Republic's Order of Merit of Duarte, Sánchez and Mella; and recognition by the Legislature of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires in Argentina, and named an honored partner by the Spanish Society of Urgent Care and Emergency Nursing (SEEUE) of

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Sevilla, Spain. In 2008 she also received the Helen Rodriguez-Trias Award for Excellence in Community-Based Women's Health Leadership issued by the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), in 2003 she was awarded Brilliant Konex Award of Science and Technology, and in 2009 the World Health Organization received the Prince of Asturias award.

Vice President for Latin America of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and Member of the International Advisory Board of the National Academy, USA. She is also National Corresponding Member of the National Academy of Medicine (Buenos Aires, Argentina.); serves as Advisor to the High-Level Secretariat for the Earth Institute (Columbia University) ALAS Initiative on Early Childhood Development (ECD), and served as Chair of the Global Agenda Council on Chronic Diseases and Well-Being (GAC) of the World Economic Forum for the term of August 2010 through July 2011.