

---

## IN MEMORIAM

---



### **José Oliver-Gonzalez, Ph D**

**1912-2004**

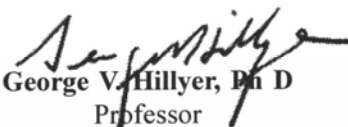
**J**osé Oliver-Gonzalez was born in Lares, Puerto Rico, on September 21, 1912. Beginning in 1928 he worked as a technician at the School of Tropical Medicine of the UPR and Columbia University for 11 years in order to support himself through his studies leading towards the baccalaureate degree at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras. During this time he was coauthor with G. W. Bachman and Rafael Rodriguez-Molina of 7 scientific articles. In 1938 he began graduate studies at the University of Chicago under the sponsorship of William Talliaferro, a giant in immunoparasitology. He completed both a Master of Science and Ph.D. in 3 years, returning as an Instructor in Parasitology in the Department of Medical Zoology of the School of Tropical Medicine of the UPR and Columbia University. There he rose in the academic ranks becoming full Professor in 1954 in the new UPR School of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medical Zoology from 1960-1974 at which time he retired. One year later he received from the UPR the dual accolade of Emeritus Professor and Doctor in Medicine Honoris Causa.

During his career his research was honored with many awards including the Bailey K. Ashford medal, the Charles Franklin Craig Lecture, and election to Council, all by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, the Manuel A. Perez award of the Government of Puerto Rico, election as Fellow in the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the Tropical Medicine and Parasitology Study section and member of Council both of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a World Health Organization Research Expert on Bilharziasis, Member Puerto Rico Academy of Arts and Sciences, and others.

Although a Puerto Rican scientist whose lifetime research was on health problems in Puerto Rico, his discoveries were international in scope. He is known in Puerto Rico for the description of the circumoval precipitin test later adapted for the serodiagnosis of schistosomiasis, but previously he had worked extensively on immunity against trichinosis, and on different aspects of immunology and immunochemistry related to parasitic diseases. When the international journal "Immunochemistry" first appeared, he was a member of the editorial board.

Over a 38 year career he authored and coauthored over 130 articles and reviews with distinguished collaborators including Rafael Rodriguez-Molina, Federico Hernandez-Morales, Nelson Biaggi, Enrique Perez-Santiago, Ernst Bueding, Jose F. Maldonado, Irving G. Kagan, Lawrence S. Ritchie, and others. His research spanned the field of tropical medicine and parasitology, including works on malaria, schistosomiasis, filariasis, ascariasis, and parasite control. He even published a paper in the journal Science in 1946 on the possible role of the guppy on the biological control of schistosomiasis mansoni.

Dr. Oliver-Gonzalez passed away on January 25, 2004 at the age of 91. He is survived by his spouse Maria, and sons Jose Enrique, Felipe, and Jorge.

  
George V. Hillyer, Ph D  
Professor

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Medical Sciences Campus, University of Puerto Rico