



In loving memory of Deolinda Flores (1958–2025)

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Deolinda Maria dos Santos Flores Marcelo da Fonseca, widely known as Professor Deolinda Flores, passed away unexpectedly on November 12, 2025, surrounded by her family. She was a distinguished scientist, devoted educator, and esteemed mentor whose life and work left an indelible mark on the academic community.

Born on June 16, 1958, in Avintes, Vila Nova de Gaia (Portugal), Deolinda developed an early fascination with geology during her secondary school years—a passion that would define her career. She pursued her studies at the University of Porto, earning a Bachelor of Science in Geology in 1982, followed by a Doctorate in 1997, and later achieving Habilitation in 2007. Her academic journey was characterized by excellence, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to advancing geological sciences.

Professor Flores served as a Full Professor at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, where she was recognized internationally for her contributions to research and education. Her legacy endures through her scholarly work, her mentorship of countless students, and her profound influence on the field of geology.

She will be remembered not only for her scientific achievements but also for her generosity, integrity, and passion for knowledge. Her passing is a great loss to her family, colleagues, and the global scientific community.

She was also a member of the Sciences Academy of Lisbon (Academia das Ciências de Lisboa), board member of the Geochemistry Group, and president of the Fiscal Council of the Geological Society of Portugal. With a long career marked by significant contributions, Deolinda also served as a researcher at the Institute of Earth Sciences (ICT) in Porto, where she achieved distinction across multiple domains of environmental and geosystem sciences, with a particular emphasis on organic petrology. Within this specialized field, her work encompassed both fundamental and applied research in organic petrology and

geochemistry, palynofacies and organic facies analysis for organic diagenesis, as well as the reconstruction of geothermal histories of sedimentary and coal basins. Her investigations further extended to chemostratigraphy and the development of strategies for the reuse and valorisation of materials containing residues derived from coal and biomass utilization.

The breadth and impact of her scientific contributions are evidenced by more than 135 publications in leading peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, alongside over 300 presentations delivered at national and international conferences. In addition to her academic endeavours, she provided consultancy services to private enterprises within the energy sector.

As a member of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Porto (FCUP), Deolinda undertook significant academic and scientific management responsibilities. She served on the Scientific Council of FCUP since 2010 and briefly held the position of Vice-President from May 2022 to January 2023. Additionally, she was Director of the Department of Geosciences, Environment, and Spatial Planning at FCUP, during which time she chaired its Scientific Committee. In this role, she oversaw the integration of faculty from Landscape Architecture, Agricultural Sciences, and Geographic Engineering into the department.

Her academic leadership extended to other roles throughout her career, including President of the Department of Geology at FCUP (2008–2009), Vice-President of the same department (2004–2007), and member of its Executive Committee for a two-year term. Since 2016, she directed the Doctoral Program in Geosciences (in collaboration with the University of Aveiro, Portugal) and, since 2017, served on the Monitoring Committee for the Bachelor's degree in Geology.

Beyond administrative duties, Deolinda coordinated and participated in numerous research projects, supervised postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and organized scientific meetings

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and conferences.

Deolinda was also an active and respected member of several scientific organizations, most notably the International Committee for Coal and Organic Petrology (ICCP). Within ICCP, she held multiple leadership roles, including Archivist, Secretary, Chair of Commission I (General Coal and Organic Petrology), Chair and Honorary Member of the Accreditation Committee, and Member of the Council. In 2019, she joined the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Coal Geology* (Elsevier) and, later that year, became its Co-Editor-in-Chief. She also served as Guest Editor for the Special Issue “ICCP ‘New Trends in Coal Science’ Symposium — In Memory of Alan Cook” (Volume 111, 2013) and Guest Co-Editor of the Special Issue “Geochemistry, Environmental Impact and Remediation of Mining Areas” in *Minerals* (MDPI). Furthermore, she reviewed manuscripts for approximately 30 scientific journals and numerous conference abstracts. Her expertise in geoscience was an invaluable asset to these editorial and peer-review activities.

Deolinda was widely recognized, both nationally and internationally, for her scientific rigor, dedication to teaching, and commitment to training new generations of geologists and scientists. Her academic and professional trajectory profoundly influenced countless students and colleagues.

Beyond her scholarly achievements, Deolinda was deeply cherished by her family, friends, and peers. She was admired for her kindness, compassion, integrity, generosity, and unwavering friendship. Throughout her life, she offered support, wisdom, and warmth, embodying the ideal of combining scientific collaboration with enduring personal relationships. Her passion for geosciences and people left an indelible mark on all who knew her. Deolinda's life stands as a testament to how professional excellence and human values can coexist harmoniously. Though her passing is deeply mourned, her legacy will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, colleagues, and the many generations she inspired.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Manuela Marques: Conceptualization, Supervision. **Isabel Suárez-Ruiz:** Conceptualization, Supervision. **Lopo Vasconcelos:** Conceptualization, Supervision. **Henrique Pinheiro:** Conceptualization, Supervision. **João Graciano Mendonça Filho:** Conceptualization, Supervision.

Declaration of competing interest

There are not conflict of interests.



Professor Dr. Deolinda Flores

Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.