Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica, **47**, 441–442 (2011)

OBITUARY

ALFONSO SERRANO
1950–2011

At the Eastern edge of the high altitude plateau known as Altiplano Mexicano, a majestic white structure stands on the summit of a dormant volcano 4600 meters above sea level, seemingly defying Citlaltépetl, the "mountain of the stars". The Large Millimeter Telescope, perceptible on a clear day from a distance of sixty kilometers, is the most visible homage to the man who first conceived it as a necessary step for Mexico to overcome its underdevelopment, and who tirelessly lobbied for this cause until his final breath. Alfonso Serrano Pérez Grovas, an exceptional force in Mexican science, died on the 12th of July 2011. He was a natural leader who followed the vision set by Guillermo Haro, that Mexico had to develop its own technology to achieve progress. This effective political advocate worked in that direction, shaping his destiny and that of his adherents by moving institutions towards the development of large projects, often in contention with colleagues, but always with the underlying belief of the ultimate benefit for Mexican society. A charming personality with a strong temperament and tough negotiating skills, he became well-known in Mexican society, admired and criticized, but seldom ignored.

Born in Mexico on the first day of February 1950, Alfonso made his undergraduate studies at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and obtained his Master's and PhD in England, at the Universities of Cambridge and Sussex, respectively. He returned to Mexico as an active researcher of the Instituto de Astronomía of UNAM, working on the chemical evolution of galaxies. His production encompasses around seventy papers with 1500 citations, shared with the likes of Manuel Peimbert, James Lequeux, Luis Carrasco,