

Renato M. E. Sabbatini

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Renato Marcos Endrizzi Sabbatini (born [February 20, 1947](#)) is a Brazilian [biomedical](#) and [computer scientist](#), [educator](#), [publisher](#), [science writer](#), [entrepreneur](#) and [administrator](#), born in [Campinas, Brazil](#). He holds a [doctoral](#) degree in [physiology](#) from the [University of São Paulo](#).

His main contributions as a researcher and publisher concern the following areas^[1]: [neuroethology](#); [medical informatics](#); [health sciences](#); [internet](#) and [web](#) applications in medicine, biology and health; ; [artificial neural networks](#); [distance education](#) and [e-learning](#); [telemedicine](#); biological and health impacts of [non-ionizing radiation](#) and [history of neuroscience](#).

He is currently the president of the [Edumed Institute](#), a [non-profit R&D](#) institution and director of [Edulogica Educação & Tecnologia](#), a consultant and commercial enterprise specializing in distance education.

Research and education

Sabbatini began his [scientific](#) career in [neurophysiology](#) in 1966, while he was a [medical student](#) at the [Medical School of the University of São Paulo](#) at [Ribeirão Preto](#) [2]. He began to work in basic [biomedical research](#) under the supervision of Prof. [Miguel Rolando Covian](#), an [Argentine](#) neurophysiologist, who encouraged him to found, after he graduated in 1968, the first research laboratory of [neuroethology](#) in [Latin America](#)[3], at the Department of [Physiology](#). Also there, he started in 1970 one of the first Brazilian and [Latin American](#) groups of [research](#), development and [education](#) on the computer applications in biomedicine. Sabbatini got a [doctorate](#) in [behavioral neuroscience](#) in 1977 and immediately thereafter went to spend two and a half years doing postdoctoral work in the same field at the [Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry](#)'s Primate Behavior Department (in [Munich, Germany](#)), under [Manfred Maurus](#).

After returning to Brazil, Sabbatini accepted an invitation by Dean Prof. [José Aristodemo Pinotti](#), to move to the [State University of Campinas](#) in 1983, Sabbatini founded the [Center for Biomedical Informatics](#), one of the first [interdisciplinary](#) group of its kind in Brazil [4],

and a collaborating professor in the Department of [Biomedical Engineering](#) of the Faculty of [Electrical Engineering](#) and in the Department of Physiology of the [Institute of Biology](#). In 1997, he created and was appointed [chairman](#) of the newly created area of [medical informatics](#) and [biostatistics](#) in the [Medical School](#)[5]. In these capacities, until his retirement from active duty with the University after 35 years of dedication to teaching and research, Sabbatini advised many students in their research projects and dissertations. He also wrote a large number of papers and books in many fields, and created a series of new graduate courses and disciplines in biomedical computing, artificial intelligence, distance education, electronic publishing, Internet applications and telemedicine.

Starting in 1993, with the advent of the [WWW](#) in Brazil, Sabbatini became a leader in the research of new technologies and in the development of a large number of [on-line courses](#) in health sciences, using [videoconferencing](#), [satellite-based teleconferencing](#) and the internet[6]. He has worked intensively in building teaching capacity in this field in Brazil and was a member of the first Distance Education Working Group of the State University of Campinas[7]. He also founded the [Edumed Institute for Education in Medicine and Health](#), working until this day as CEO and Chairman of the Board, and director of its International Center for Information Technologies in Health. The Edumed Institute has organized a national [consortium](#) comprising dozens of universities and [medical associations](#) with the aim of developing a national [network](#) of distance education.

Sabbatini's initiatives in technological [innovation](#) in Brazil has been recognized several times, including, in August 2007, by [Info Exame](#) Magazine's shortlist on the "50 Champions of Innovation" of 2007[8]

Organizational work

Sabbatini was one of the specialists in Brasil to promote the birth of medical informatics as a new science, being involved in the creation of the [Brazilian Society for Health Informatics](#) (where he served as first vice-president, 1986-1987 and second president, 1987-1988 [9]), the [Brazilian Journal of Health Informatics](#), and the First [Brazilian Congress on Health Informatics](#), and the series of International Conferences on Telemedicine and Distance Education (TELMED). Among other things, he created and edited three other periodicals in medical informatics, [Informedica](#), [Intermedic](#) and [Informatica Médica](#) magazines, served as Medical Informatics Director to the [Brazilian Medical Association](#) and as a national and international consultant to the [World Health Organization](#), [Pan American Health Organization](#)[10], [Inter-American Development Bank](#)[11], [São Paulo State Research Foundation](#), [National Research Council](#) and others.

Entrepreneurial work

Together with family members, Sabbatini founded a number of [high-tech](#) companies in [Germany](#) and [Brazil](#), working as a part-time [consultant](#) for them while he was a university-based researcher, and as [CEO](#) and chairman of the board for two of them after his retirement. These companies were Vortex GMBH (one of the first European [software](#) producer for the [TRS-80](#) microcomputer), Dataquest Ltd. (publishing and education in IT), [Webpraxis](#) International Ltd. (consultancy and development projects for the Web) and [EduLogica](#) Technology and Education Ltd. (distance education and educational technology). He also helped to conceive, plan and establish other companies, such as [ProfSat](#).

Popularization of science

Sabbatini has a long history of writing about science to laypersons, having started with articles and columns in major Brazilian [magazines](#) and [newspapers](#), such as [Folha de São Paulo](#) and [O Estado de São Paulo](#). From 1991 to 2001, he wrote a series of weekly science and informatics columns in the main newspaper of Campinas, [Correio Popular](#). For this effort, he won the prestigious 1992 award of the [Brazilian National Research Council](#), as the Best Science Popularizer ([Prêmio José Reis de Divulgação Científica](#)) [12]. He has taught and lectured extensively on [science journalism](#) (graduate program at UNICAMP [13]) and is active in this professional field.

Electronic publishing

Starting 1996, Sabbatini created with his colleagues in the State University of Campinas a number of [websites](#) devoted to promote the awareness of general public to health-related information, such as, among others: the [Brazilian Virtual Hospital](#) (the third of its kind in the world), the [Virtual Sports Center](#) [14], the Brazilian Virtual Veterinary Hospital, the Virtual Odontology Center, the [Visible Human Image Database in South America](#) [15], the [Health & Life On-line Magazine](#), the [Brain & Mind On-Line Magazine](#), the [NutriWeb On-Line Magazine](#), several bulletins and newsletter distributed by email lists. He created and acted as technical director to the first Brazilian project of scientific [electronic publishing](#), the [e*pub Group](#), where several pioneering, exclusively on-line publications were created under his technical direction, such as the [On-Line Journal of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery](#) and the [On-Line Journal of Dentistry and Oral Medicine](#). Sabbatini is a member of the editorial board of [Critical Reviews in Biomedical Engineering](#)[16]

History of neuroscience

Another field where Sabbatini has been active is the history of neuroscience. He organized for the first time in Brazil a systematic course on the subject [17] and is associate editor of the section on the history of neuroscience in the *Brain & Mind* magazine[18], having published nine articles on different aspects of international history[19]. A book, the first in Brazil, is being published in the fourth quarter of 2007.

Skeptics movement

One of the founders of the organized [skepticism/rationalism](#) movement in Brazil, Sabbatini founded in 2001 the [Brazilian Society of Skeptics and Rationalists](#), which has currently more than 300 members [20]. The Society discusses actively and promotes [ethical responsibility](#) in the mass media. It has a [website](#), which features on-line articles on [pseudoscience](#), [antiscience](#) and skepticism by Sabbatini and others, and has a web-based [discussion group](#).

Affiliations to learned societies

- [Brazilian Society of Physiology](#), member and Secretary General (1982-1985) [21]
- [Brazilian Society of Health Informatics](#), founding member, vice-president (1986-1988), president (1988-1990) and secretary (1993-1995)
- [Brazilian Medical Association](#), director of informatics
- [Brazilian Association of Distance Education](#), member and director of Campinas Chapter
- [Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science](#)

- [Brazilian Society of Biological Psychiatry](#), director of informatics
- [American Medical Informatics Association](#)
- [American Telemedicine Association](#)

Selected publications

Health informatics

- Sabbatini, R.M.E.: [A multilayered neural network for processing 2D tomographic images in neurosurgery](#). *Proceed. Nuclear Science Symposium and Medical Imaging Conference*, IEEE, 1992
- Ortiz J., Ghefter C.G., Silva C.E., Sabbatini R.M.E.: One-year mortality prognosis in heart failure: a neural network approach based on echocardiographic data. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 1995 Dec;26(7):1586-93. [PMID 7594090](#)
- Sabbatini, R.M.E.; Cardoso, S.H.: [The Virtual Hospital. Electronic Publications and the Visible Human: New Paradigms for Health Education](#). *Proceed. Regional Conference on Health Information Systems*, p. 128-137, São Paulo, BIREME, 1996. (In Portuguese)
- Sabbatini, R.M.E.: Using neural networks for processing biologic signals. *MD Comput.* 1996 Mar-Apr;13(2):165-72. [PMID 8684280](#)
- Da Costa, C.G.A. & Sabbatini, R.M.E.: [A Survey of Software Engineering Practices in the Development of Electronic Patient Record Systems](#). *Proceed. AMIA Annu. Meet.* (In PDF)
- Cardoso, S.H.; Sabbatini, R.M.E.: ["Brain & Mind" Magazine: An On-Line Multimedia Resource for Dissemination and Evaluation of Knowledge in Neuroscience](#). *Proceed. AMIA Annu. Meet.* (In PDF)
- Carvalho, P.M.; Sabbatini, R.M.E. [Integrating the Teaching of Informatics to Medical Students in a Problem-Based Learning Undergraduate Course](#). *Proceed. AMIA Annu. Meet.* (In PDF)
- Botelho, M.L.; Araújo, L.; Sabbatini, R.M.E.: [A Neural-Network Based System on the World Wide Web for Prognosis and Indication of Surgery in Head and Brain Trauma](#). *Proceed. AMIA Annu. Meet.*, 1997 (In PDF)
- Quaresma, R.P.; Sabbatini, R.M.E.; Cardoso, S.H.; Ortale, J.R.: [Adding Java and CGI Functionality to an On-Line Atlas of Anatomy for Medical Education](#). *Proceed. AMIA Annu. Meet.*, 1997 (In PDF)
- Palombo, C.R. Maccari-Filho, M.; Sabbatini, R.M.E. and Halstead, C.L.: [The Virtual Dental Center: Resource for Research and Education on the WWW](#). *Proceed. AMIA Annu. Meet.*, 1997 (In PDF)
- Sabbatini, R.M.E.; Cardoso, S.H.: [Interdisciplinarity and the Neurosciences](#). *Interdisciplinary Science Review*, 27(4) Dec 2002, pp. 303-311.
- Sabbatini, R.M.E.; Cardoso, S.H.: [Internet-2 Based Tele/Videoconferencing for Distance Medical Education: The EduMed. Net Project](#). AMIA Annual Meeting (in PDF).
- Cardoso, S.H.; Sabbatini, R.M.E.: [On-line Resources for a WWW-based Continued Education Curriculum on Behavioral Neurobiology](#). AMIA Annual Meeting (in PDF).
- Sabbatini, R.M.E.: The Brazilian Virtual Hospital. A Case in e-Health. In: Knight, P. et al.: *e-Democracy in Brazil*. Rio de Janeiro: Pearson Educational, 2003. (In Portuguese).
- Sabbatini, R.M.E. & Cardoso, S.H.: [A Distance Interactive Course on the History of Neuroscience](#). *Abstr. Annu. Meet. Soc. Neurosci.* (SFN 2003), New Orleans, LA, USA, Nov. 2003.
- Lopes da Silva, J.V.; Santa Bárbara, A.; Cardoso, S.H.; Sabbatini, R.M.E. and

- Coimbra, N.C.: [Construction of 3D Anatomical Models in Polymer Using Selective Laser Sintering - A New Method for Teaching Human Anatomy](#), *Proc. VIII International Conference on Nursing Informatics*. Rio de Janeiro, June 2003.
- Sabbatini, R.M.E. Internet Health Applications in Brazil. In: Sosa-Iudicissa, M. et al. (Eds). *Internet, Telematics and Health*. IOP Press, 1997. [Excerpt at Google Books](#)
 - Sabbatini, R.M.E. - Applications of connectionist systems in Biomedicine. In: Lun, K.C.; Degoulet, P. & Piemme, T. (Eds.) - *Proceed. 7th World Congress on Medical Informatics (MEDINFO 92)*. p. 418-425, 1992.

Neurosciences

- Sabbatini RM. A head-mounted stereotaxic platform with movable electrodes for intracerebral exploration. *Braz J Med Biol Res*. 1982 Apr;15(1):65-71. [PMID 6758889](#)
- [The PET Scan: A New Window Into the Brain](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, March/May 1997.
- [Phrenology: The History of Brain Localization](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, March/May 1997.
- [The History of Psychosurgery](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, June/August 1997.
- [Radiosurgery](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, June/August 1997.
- [Mapping the Brain](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, September/November 1997.
- [The History of Shock Therapy in Psychiatry](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, December 1997/February 1998.
- [The Discovery of Bioelectricity](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, June/August 1998.
- [The Psychopath's Brain](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, September/November 1998.
- [Imitation of Life: The History of the First Robots](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, June/August 1999.
- [Placebo Effect: The Power of the Sugar Pill](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, June/August 1999.
- [Learning Who is Your Mother. The Behavior of Imprinting](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, 14: Nov.2001-March 2002
- [The Evolution of Human Intelligence](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, 12 (February-May 2001) and 13 (August-November 2001)
- [The Animal that Weeps](#). *Cerebrum Magazine*, 2003
- [Neurons and Synapses. The History of its Discovery](#). *Brain & Mind Magazine*, 17: March 2003

See also

- [Instituto Edumed para Educação em Medicina e Saúde](#)
- [Center for Biomedical Informatics](#)
- [Brazilian Society for Health Informatics](#)
- [Brazilian Journal of Health Informatics](#)
- [Brazilian Society of Skeptics and Rationalists](#)
- [Edulogica Educação & Tecnologia](#)

External links

- [Personal website](#) (In English)
- [Science, Technology and Society](#). Blog (In Portuguese)
- [Curriculum Vitae](#). Lattes Platform, National Research Council (In Portuguese)
- [Medical Informatics](#) magazines in Brazil.

- [TeleMed Newsletter](#)
- [EduMed Newsletter](#)
- [TVDNews Newsletter](#)
- [SBCR Newsletter](#)
- [Brain & Mind Newsletter](#)
- [Neuroethology Lab](#). Dept. Physiology, Medical School of Ribeirão Preto
- [Brazilian Virtual Hospital](#)
- [Virtual Sports Center](#)
- [Brain & Mind On-Line Magazine](#)
- [NutriWeb On-Line Magazine](#)
- [e*pub Group](#)
- [The Edumed Institute](#)
- [Edologica Education & Technology](#)
- [Webpraxis International](#)
- [ProfSat Technology & Education](#)

References

1. [^ Certified curriculum vitae, National Council of Scientific and Technological Development, Brazil](#)
2. [^ History of the Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto](#)
3. [^ Site of the Neuroethology Lab, Dept. Physiology, Faculty of Medicine of Ribeirão Preto](#)
4. [^ Biomedical Informatics Center, Central UNICAMP Archives](#)
5. [^ Timeline of 40 Years of UNICAMP, Faculty of Medical Sciences, State University of Campinas](#)
6. [^ Report on Distance Education Conference at UNICAMP](#)
7. [^ Report of the Distance Education Working Group, State University of Campinas](#)
8. [^ "50 Champions of Innovation" of 2007](#)
9. [^ History of the Brazilian Society of Health Informatics](#)
10. [^ Telemedicine and Telehealth Will Be Part of the WHO Strategy for Health for All 2000. *Medical Informatics Magazine News*, 1\(3\), May 1998](#)
11. [^ BID Places Health on the Super Information Highways. *Medical Informatics Magazine News*, 1\(1\), Jan 1998](#)
12. [^ Official List of Awardees, José Reis Award, CNPq](#)
13. [^ LABJOR/UNICAMP: Docents of the 1999 Class in Scientific Journalism](#)
14. [^ List of collaborators, Virtual Sports Center](#)
15. [^ NIB Participates in the Visible Human Database Project. *Medical Informatics Magazine News*, 2\(3\), March 1999](#)
16. [^ Editorial Board of Critical Reviews in Biomedical Engineering](#)
17. [^ On-Line Course on the History of Neuroscience](#)
18. [^ Brain & Mind Magazine Staff](#)
19. [^ Section of History of Neuroscience, Brain & Mind Magazine](#)
20. [^ History of the Brazilian Society of Skeptics and Rationalists](#)
21. [^ List of former directors, Brazilian Society of Physiology](#)

Also: [Search Pubmed](#), [Google Scholar](#) or [Search Google](#) for references to Dr. Renato M.E. Sabbatini.

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renato_M._E._Sabbatini"