
About the Author



Georges Pardo was born in Paris, France, in 1920; his father was a Venezuelan and his mother was French. He moved to Caracas, Venezuela in 1939, and enrolled in the Venezuelan Instituto de Geologia, where he obtained his geologist degree, Cum Laude, in 1943. In that same year, he joined Meme Grande Oil Company, a subsidiary of Gulf Oil Corporation, as a paleontologist in the San Tomé oil camp in eastern Venezuela under the direction of Hollis Hedberg, who became Pardo's close friend and mentor.

In 1945, Pardo was promoted to head the Stratigraphic Laboratory in Caracas. In 1947, he moved to the United States to do graduate work at Columbia University under Marshall Kay and Walter Bucher. In 1949, he joined Gulf's Foreign Exploration Division in New York, and was appointed Chief Geologist for Cuban Gulf Oil Company in 1952, working in Havana, Cuba.

Pardo was transferred to Gulf Research & Development Company in Harmarville, Pennsylvania, in 1955 as Stratigraphy Section Supervisor. While in Research, he did extensive work on sediment compaction and deltaic sedimentation worldwide that led to the discovery of techniques for the direct detection of hydrocarbons with a seismograph.

Transferred to Coral Gables, Florida, Gulf's Latin American operations headquarters, in 1969, Pardo served as regional geologist until moving to Houston, Texas, in 1971 as part of a four-man advisory team to the vice president of domestic exploration. In 1974, he was promoted to exploration vice president for Gulf Global Exploration (GLOBEX) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and then was transferred, along with all Gulf Oil Corporation exploration and production management, to Houston, Texas, in 1975. In Houston, Pardo created a regional exploration group independent from day-to-day operations, which originally concerned itself with foreign exploration, but eventually became involved with the United States, and was responsible for one of the earliest Gulf of Mexico pre-salt exploration plays in 1982 by Gulf.

Pardo retired from Gulf in late 1984, during the Gulf-Chevron merger. At the time, he was the General Manager of Gulf's Central Exploration Group and Houston Technical Service Center. With the exception of a few consulting jobs (including an early version of the *Geology of Cuba* for Petroconsultants), he has been enjoying retirement ever since.