In memory of Professor Loris Borghi (1949–2018)

Giovanni Gambaro¹ · Alberto Trinchieri²

Received: 21 March 2018 / Accepted: 28 March 2018 / Published online: 4 April 2018
© Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature 2018

We are so sorry to write in memory of Loris Borghi who suddenly passed away on the 14th of March 2018.

Born near Parma in February 1949, he graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Parma in 1974 and specialized in Internal Medicine and Clinical Biochemistry. He became a researcher at the University of Parma in 1978 and he was appointed as Full Professor of Internal Medicine in 2000 in the same University. After having served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (2005–2012) he was elected Rector of the University of Parma, a role that he fulfilled with extreme passion and total dedication until 2017.

Renal stones and nutrition were the fields of his main scientific interests. After having visited and spent research periods in the early 1980s in the most important world laboratories for renal stone research (Leeds, Chicago, Dallas), he established in Parma one of the most fertile centers for the investigation of nephrolithiasis.

He was one of the few in this field capable of carrying out elegant trials for the investigation of the preventive treatment of recurrent renal stones. Actually, his papers are cited in the Guidelines of AUA and EAU as examples of evidence-based medicine in the field of nephrolithiasis.

Some of his articles are among the most cited in this field. The famous trial published in 2002 in the *New England Journal of Medicine* [1] on the role of diet in the prevention of renal stones has almost 1000 citations; his controlled study on the effect of water intake [2] has been cited 800 times.

He was also a leader of the Italian research on the pathophysiology of renal stones. In fact, he coordinated two very important scientific projects funded by the Ministry for Universities which involved many Italian investigators in the genetic of nephrolithiasis.

In 1999, he had also the honor to Chair the Congress of the Eurolithiasis Society in Parma, an unforgettable Congress for the renowned speakers, the scientific results, the great atmosphere and hospitality that he was capable to instill.

Aside from these impressive scientific achievements and the role of Dean and Rector in his University that he interpreted as civic engagement, he was really a great man, elegant, kind, and empathic. It was easy to speak with him since he was gentle and attentive to other's point of view.

He will be very much missed by all of us.

However, he left behind wonderful investigators and we are sure that Tiziana Meschi, Antonio Nouvenne, and Andrea Ticinesi will continue along the way laid out by their mentor.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References

1. Borghi L, Schianchi T, Meschi T, Guerra A, Allegri F, Maggiore U, Novarini A (2002) Comparison of two diets for the prevention

✉ Giovanni Gambaro
giovanni.gambaro@unicatt.it

¹ Division of Nephrology, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Fondazione Policlinico A. Gemelli, Roma, Italy

² Division of Urology, Alessandro Manzoni General Hospital, Lecco, Italy

- of recurrent stones in idiopathic hypercalciuria. *N Engl J Med* 346:77–84
2. Borghi L, Meschi T, Amato F, Briganti A, Novarini A, Giannini A (1996) Urinary volume, water and recurrences in idiopathic calcium nephrolithiasis: a 5-year randomized prospective study. *J Urol* 155:839–843