In memoriam of Corrado Messina

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Prof. Corrado Messina (26/3/1939 - 8/1/2018)

Corrado Messina, professor emeritus of neurology at the University of Messina, died on January 8, 2018. He served as the President of the Italian Society of Clinical Neurophysiology (1993–1996), the President of the Italian Society of Neurology (2003–2005), and the Chair of the Italian College of the Professors of Neurology (2008–2010).

He was born in Messina and graduated at the School of Medicine of the University of Messina in 1963. He then specialized in Neurology and Psychiatry in 1966 at the University of Naples,

under the direction of prof. Vito Longo, and in Anesthesiology in 1968 at the University of Catania.

He worked as Volunteer Assistant in 1963–1965 and then Assistant Professor in Neurology at the Messina University Hospital, under the direction of prof. Eugenio Ferrari first and Prof. Vincenzo Bonavita then. In 1980, he became Full Professor of Neurology. His early research concerned the neurophysiology of the trigemino-facial reflexes, the blink reflex, the excitability of type 1 and type 2 alpha-motoneurons, and the pharmacological approaches to expedite muscle reinnervation after experimental nerve crush.

Since late 1970s, he coordinated the modern expansion of Clinical Neurophysiology Lab in his Hospital stimulating a number of young specialists to follow him. In the same time he promoted the creation of a Laboratory of Muscle and Nerve Pathology, forming the basis for a clinical and scientific interest in neuromuscular disorders for a progressively increased number of young fellows. Then, in the 1990s, he supported the expansion of Rehabilitation within the Neurosciences and he was a founder member of the Italian Society of Neurological Rehabilitation.

The considerable communication skills, despite the tendency to be shy, his ability to propose solutions to problems and to implement decisions with the maximum possible sharing, have allowed him to assume a role of absolute importance in the Italian neurological community.

Corrado Messina led an exemplary life with his charisma and gentle nature being an inspiration to his students, colleagues, and friends. His teaching was top class, his professional standing supreme and his stimulus to research valuable and continued.

In his private life, he was known for his gentleness and kind disposition with a subtle humor. Sagacious and with a keen mind, he retained the ability to put people at their ease.

Corrado Messina is survived by his wife Donatella, son Lorenzo, an ophthalmologist, daughters Maria Francesca, a pediatrician, and Sonia, a neurologist, and by his grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all who had the great pleasure of knowing him, both personally and professionally.

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