To Mariolina

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Eighteen months have passed since Professor Mariarosaria Padula (Mariolina to all her friends), left us on September 29, 2012. We are privileged to dedicate the present issue of the *Annali dell'Università di Ferrara*, the representative journal of the mathematical community of Ferrara, to her memory. In her last years Mariolina served as editor in chief of the “*Annali*”; she invested great talent and efforts into its revival, leading to its transformation from a largely departmental instrument to an international journal presented by a scientific publisher of renowned tradition. With the same enthusiasm she applied to her research work and to inspiring and training talented students, Mariolina brought prominent scholars to the “*Annali*” Board, to the effect that it currently houses a spectrum of world experts from the leading areas of pure and applied mathematics. Under the editorial assistance of Robert Finn and of Reinhard Farwig, in conjunction with the many specialists who donated their efforts as peer reviewers, some of Mariolina’s coworkers and former students present in this issue descriptions of their recent achievements. The contents of this issue should give a sense for the breadth and depth of Mariolina’s scientific interests, covering aspects of mathematical physics that range from the mathematical theory of incompressible and compressible fluids, to stability of motion, to elasticity, fluid-structure interaction and kinetic theory, and motion with free boundaries subject to surface tension. One may infer from the contents also the influence Mariolina had on the character of new developments in those directions. In her almost 40 years of work, starting from 1973, Mariolina has been author and coauthor of 88 scientific publications, testifying to the depth of her proficiency and to her enormous breadth of interests and insights.

Da parte mia desidero rivolgere a Mariolina il mio pensiero commosso. Sebbene il vuoto che ella ha lasciato sia riempito dal vivo ricordo della sua passione per la ricerca, della sua disponibilità, della sua generosità, tuttavia io ancora piango la perdita di un riferimento, di un modello, di un’amica.

Ferrara, March 29, 2014
Vincenzo Coscia