Foreword to the memorial issue for Professor Roberto Marassi

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Professor Roberto Marassi passed away on September 06, 2019. He was Professor of Analytical Chemistry and Electrochemistry, as well as he served as Vice-Rector at University of Camerino. Roberto Marassi (1941–2019) was a key person in the development of electrochemical science and technology in Italy. During his long scientific career, he was active and contributed significantly to almost all areas of

electrochemistry. Roberto Marassi was one of the scientists who, by developing new or by extending existing methods or materials, significantly advanced the understanding of electrochemical energy conversion processes as well as of the fundamentals of electrocatalysis and electroanalysis. Upon kind approval by Prof. Dr. Fritz Scholz, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Solid State of Electrochemistry*, this Special Issue is published in his memory.

After postdoctoral appointments and visiting scientist positions in many research centers, including those in the USA, Roberto Marassi came to the University of Camerino to teach modern chemistry, in particular electrochemistry and analytical chemistry almost a half-century ago. To cite some of his research activities, it should be mentioned that Roberto Marassi was a pioneer in the field of electrochemical energy storage for more than 40 years, pursuing research in such areas as molten salts or ionic liquids, Na-S batteries, Li-ion batteries, low-temperature fuel cells, and vanadium redox flow batteries, in addition to his interests in electro-analytical chemistry.

Roberto Marassi was a hard-working and demanding person searching for novelty and scientific quality. Even after retirement, he kept coming to laboratories to propose innovative solutions in electrochemistry and to elucidate the energy storage problems. But Roberto is remembered mainly for his availability to interact with other people, especially the young scientists, as well as for his sincere enthusiasm for the progress in electrochemical science and technology. In the scientific world becoming more and more specialized, he remained open to address different topics and propose different solutions. He had much collaboration with worldwide, and he also educated many young scientists who pursue scientific careers in prominent Italian and international institutions. Finally, he always paid attention to cultural and human components accompanying the scientific experience.

We highly appreciate Roberto Marassi as a scientist and a great individual. We do not want to repeat his excellent scientific parameters and formal achievements which are well-known and easily available. His research and publications have made Camerino's chemistry program outstanding and

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internationally recognized. All of us appreciated his open-minded temper and intellectual integrity, as well as long discussions with him, not only about science but also about life and social issues.

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