

In Memoriam of Prof. Andrea Bosatra

Professor Andrea Bosatra passed away peacefully last June. He studied at that incredible scientific research workshop that was the ENT University Clinic of Padova, under the direction of Professor Michele Arslan, and was later and for a long time the Director of the ENT University Clinic in Trieste and of the Schools of Specialisation in ENT and Audio-Phoniatrics. He was Director of the degree course in medicine and Head of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Trieste from 1987 to 1990. In the last years before his retirement, he took on the role of Director of the Division of Clinical Laryngology and Otology in Treviso (University of Padova).

A learned man, blessed with a lively and inquiring mind, he was gifted with great communication skills and a subtle sense of humour, which earned him the favour and respect of whoever met him, be it colleagues, students, or patients. He was a skilled and neat surgeon, especially in neck surgery and ear microsurgery, a fine researcher mainly in audiology, a brilliant and clear teacher and a skilled organiser of the activities of the Clinic and the schools of specialisation, but not only. Indeed, he distinguished himself for his dedication in assisting his patients. He was extremely precise when attending to them and demanded the same level of care from all staff. He was gifted with a remarkable ability to perceive and understand patients' expectations and fears, which allowed him to form special, enduring relationships with them, based on trust and friendship.

He began his medical studies in 1952 at the ENT Clinic in Padova under the direction of Professor Michele Arslan, the most important man in his life, as Professor Bosatra himself later confessed. Under his guidance, he began his research activity and teaching experience. During the first years of his career, he had very important work experiences, both in Italy and abroad: he worked as a research assistant at the Institute of Laryngology and Otology of the University of London, associated with the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, run by Professor Ormerod in 1955/56. During the same period, in London, he was part of the Otological Research Unit of the Medical Research Council, run by Professor Hallpike. In 1960/61 he worked at the Psychology Institute at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan and at the connected Phonetics laboratory, which had been founded by Father Gemelli and, in those years, was run by Professor Ancona. In 1969, it was part of the Department of Otolaryngology of Massachusetts General Hospital, run by Professor Schuknecht, and of the Presbyterian Hospital of New York run by Professor Conley. He authored 150 publications on

microscopic anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the hearing system, ear and larynx surgical techniques. He conducted special, in-depth research on subjects related to audiology, such as pathophysiology and cochlear semeiotics and central auditory canals, and correlations between the hearing system and phonation. Many of these publications were written with the collaboration of his beloved wife Edith Spiller, professor at the renowned School for Interpreters of the University of Trieste. Regarding oncology, he conducted a massive research – one of the first on the subject – on synchronous and metachronous cancers in upper respiratory and digestive tract neoplasms, which culminated in an international medical congress held in Trieste.

He held conferences and lectures in many countries: at the Karolinska Sjukhuset in Stockholm, at the Universities of Ljubljana, Zagreb, Boston, New York, Copenhagen, Bonn, Oxford, Lyon, Paris, Erlangen and Perth.

He was member of SIO (Italian Association of Otolaryngologists) and SIAF (Italian Association of Audiology and Phoniatrics), the International Society of Physicians in Audiology, the Royal Society of Medicine of London, the American Association for the advancement of Sciences and the New York Academy of Sciences.

In addition to his accomplished scientific carrier, we should also remember Professor Bosatra's human qualities. He deeply loved his family, his wife Edith and their sons Marco, Francesco and Leonardo, and had many passions: sailing, which led him to sail throughout the entire Dalmatian region; fly-fishing, which he perhaps learned in Great Britain, but honed on the Piave river banks; and his city, Asiago, where he had his old family home renovated and where he often took refuge after his retirement. Occasionally, he would share his memories, such as that of his uncle Arturo Ferrarin, an expert aviator during the First World War, who, in 1922, was the first man ever to fly from Rome to Tokyo, where he was welcomed by the Japanese Emperor. He also spoke of his cousin Silvio Ceccato, philosopher, cyberneticist and researcher of mental processes, who probably had a great influence in his psychological training.

Thanks to his personality, Professor Bosatra was worshipped and loved by all the Clinical staff. His charisma was the catalyst that peacefully brought together doctors and interns, who wished to share their experiences and competence spontaneously, and were proud to feel part of a great school and be taught by a great teacher.

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