

In Memoriam of Pietro Ferrara (1934-2015)

We were all deeply saddened by the loss of Professor Pietro Ferrara, Director of the Clinic of Otorhinolaryngology of the University of Palermo, from 1980 to 2004.

Prof. Pietro Ferrara was born at San Giuseppe Jato (Palermo) January 4th 1934.

Graduated in Medicine and Surgery on 19 July 1958. Otorhinolaryngology professional qualification on 12 December 1961.

Anesthesiology professional qualification in 1963.

Academic career in University of Palermo: he was Voluntary Assistant from 1960 to 1962. He had entrusted assistant from 1962 to 1964 and Ordinary Assistant in 1964. He was Lecturer in Otorhinolaryngology from 1969.

From 1974 to 1980 he had entrusted of the teaching of Otorhinolaryngology.

From the 1980 Ordinary Professor professional qualification in Otorhinolaryngology.

He was Chief Medical Executive of the Complex Unity of Otorhinolaryngology and Manager of the Department of the Special Surgeries in Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Policlinico of Palermo.

His teacher was Professor Ettore Borghesan, who was internationally known for his research on the internal ear. Professor Ferrara inherited a passion for research and a deep-felt attachment to the Institution from his teacher and dedicated himself to the study of Histopathology and Histochemistry in the field of Otorhinolaryngology

After brilliantly completing his specialization in Otorhinolaryngology in 1961, he progressively and successfully scaled all the steps of his academic career .

Director of Otorhinolaryngology clinic, Director of the School of Specialization, and finally, Director of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology.

His scientific research in various fields of Otology, Vesti-

bology and Otosurgery, and clinical and experimental Oncology, were published in many highly regarded journals. Professor Ferrara was also a Speaker and Chairman at many national and international congresses, an Organizer of courses and meetings.

He was Member of numerous Italian and international Scientific Societies: Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Italian Society of Audiology, Italian Society of Phoniatry , Italian Society of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology, Sicilian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, International Association of Physicians in Audiology (IAPA), Prosper Ménière Society, Fondation Portmann, Politzer Society, European Academy of Otology & Neuro-Otology, European Skull Base Society.

He was also President of the Sicilian Board of Otorhinolaryngology, Audiology, and Phoniatry.

He was a brilliant otosurgeon and a passionate researcher who was always open to innovation. He published more than 200 articles (indexed/Peer reviewed Journals) 1 book chapters and more than 100 abstracts presented as oral presentation or posters at national and international scientific congresses).

Main topics of his activity were: otology, neurotology, middle ear surgery, neuroradiology, audiology.

My memories go back to those first years in which I was student and attended the Department of Otorhinolaryngology of the University of Palermo. In those years, I assisted Professor Ferrara both in clinical research projects and in the wards and surgery rooms.

His pupils will remember always his great sense of duty, dedication to the work, and his teaching.

Riccardo Speciale