

IN MEMORIAM

Giorgio L. Bronzetti



PROFESSOR GIORGIO BRONZETTI, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Pathology, Toxicology, and Oncology*, died on January 1, 2005 after a long fight with metastatic malignant melanoma. He was 64 years old.

Giorgio was born in Gavorrano and raised in nearby Scarlino in the province of Grosseto, in southern Tuscany. He obtained a PhD degree in Biology and a PhD degree in Pharmacy at the University of Pisa, where he started his studies on genotoxicity, mutagenesis, antimutagenesis, and anticarcinogenesis, with an emphasis on the molecular mechanisms of cancer chemoprevention. He undertook intense postgraduate studies at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and at major European research institutes.

Dr. Bronzetti developed short-term tests for

genotoxicity using prokaryotic and eukaryotic strains. He introduced in research methodology the in vitro microsomal assay and the in vivo intravenous host-mediated assay for the study of the mutagenic potential of chemical agents. His initial findings led to lifetime studies and original scientific contributions in environmental mutagenesis focused on occupational chemical carcinogenesis, applied environmental toxicology, screening of potential carcinogens, and short-term testing of genotoxicity for cancer prevention.

In recent years, Giorgio devoted special attention to national and international collaborative studies on nutritional factors in cancer and the role of microelements such as selenium and magnesium. He was a professor at the University of Pisa and at the University of Bologna and held a leadership position in the Institute of Mutagenesis and Differentiation of the Na-

tional Research Council (*Istituto di Mutagenesi e Differenziamento, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche*) in Pisa, Italy. He established there a working group of distinguished scientific researchers who contributed substantially to their areas of expertise.

Dr. Bronzetti published the findings of his scientific investigation in major biomedical journals. He was an international authority on nutrition, on antioxidants, and, in particular, on the role of selenium in antimutagenesis. He authored and co-authored more than 100 original research manuscripts, books, and chapters in textbooks. Giorgio lectured on the topics of his research at numerous scientific conventions and congresses as an invited guest or as the organizer of these meetings. His effort to assemble scientists at the 8th International Conference on the Mechanisms of Antimutagenesis and Anticarcinogenesis in Pisa in October 2003 was his final contribution to scientific interchange. It was a formidable undertaking, because he was already very

sick, fighting the cancer that ultimately killed him.

I was very fortunate to know and work with Giorgio for many years. In 1985, he joined the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Environmental Pathology, Toxicology, and Oncology*. He generously helped us to improve this Journal and extended to me the friendly and collegial support needed in difficult editorial decisions.

Giorgio Bronzetti was a man with wide interests, who had the cultural foundation and vision of a renaissance man. He loved his family, his friends, his work, and colleagues, but above all I think he valued life with all that life can offer us. We join his wife, Carla, his daughter, Francesca, and his son, Marco, in their mourning. He will be very much missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

—Edgar M. Moran, MD
Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Environmental
Pathology, Toxicology, and Oncology*