

## In memoriam of Giuseppe Meco (1950- 2022)

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I met Prof. Giuseppe Meco in 2000, when I moved as Full Professor of Human Anatomy to Sapienza University of Rome after a long and fruitful period spent at the University of L'Aquila, where I was covering the role of Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

The Faculty Dean of Sapienza was Prof. Luigi Frati, who immediately involved me in the complex and varied life of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the largest in Italy, facing the issues of transitioning the Policlinico Umberto I hospital from the direct management by the University to an actual University Hospital, as requested by the laws approved in 1999.

During the countless, sometimes intense, meetings that followed one another at the time, I met a neurologist, who was greatly expert of the issues we were facing, who was renowned for his authority by all of the researchers, and who had a concrete and effective approach.

It was Giuseppe Meco who, as I later discovered, was born in L'Aquila on 20/05/1950. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialized in Neurology and Psychiatry at Sapienza, and he was Researcher at the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. He trained in the academic school of Prof. Alessandro Agnoli and under his guidance began to work in the field of extrapyramidal disorders.

His teaching activity, always devoted to the

students and postgraduates, led him to become President of the Degree Course in Physiotherapy at the Sapienza Ariccia site; furthermore, he became Director of the U.O.D. Parkinson's disease at the Policlinico Umberto I, establishing collaborations with numerous national and international centers.

His scientific activity was mainly focused on the clinical aspects of degenerative diseases of the nervous system, with particular attention to Parkinson's disease and extrapyramidal diseases, experimental and clinical Neuropsychopharmacology, and Neuroepidemiology and Neurotoxicology.

The quality and commitment in this field of research, as testified by the publication of more than 150 journal articles and four books, led him to be part of the E.F.N.S.'s panel on "Environmental neurology and toxicology", to become a member of the "Research Group on Parkinsonism and Related Disorders" of the World Federation of Neurology, and member of the Editorial Board of Movement Disorders. In addition, he joined the Research Center for Social Diseases (CIMS) of the Sapienza University of Rome and has been a member of numerous scientific societies.

It is for this rare mix of commitment to teaching, science, healthcare and academic management - which led him to be in charge of an important trade union and contact person for the Faculty's Assistance Commission in its crucial moments - that in 2014, when I assumed the position of Rector of Sapienza, the largest University in Europe, I wanted my colleague

and friend Giuseppe Meco at my side in the important role of Pro Rector for personnel policies. Role that he played, even after retirement, as Councilor to the Rector, never lacking commitment, wisdom, competence, loyalty and availability towards everyone,

which were his true and profound characteristics as a man, before being an academic.

And this is what we will all miss, now that Giuseppe, by the inscrutable paths of fate, has left us too soon.