In Memory of Antonio Arrigo, MD (1929–1990)

Antonio ‘Jimmy’ Arrigo spent a lifetime and his whole academic career sharing the traditions of a small ancient town and of a highly reputed University. As Professor of Clinical Neurophysiology, since 1978 as Director of the Center of Clinical Neurophysiology of the University, all his efforts were purported to promote and spread the electrophysiological approaches to the functional investigation of the nervous system, with particular concern for the peripheral neural and muscular structures. His personal scientific contributions were mostly in the electrophysiological investigation of the neural mechanisms and cerebral regulation of reflexes, the electrophysiological concomitants of the anticonvulsant action of benzodiazepines, the evaluation of peripheral and central fatigue in amateur and professional sport activities as well as the neurophysiological basis of, and the multidisciplinary quantitative approach to electro-myographic signals. He joined the International Pharmacoelectroencephalography soon after its foundation, served in the Italian Society of Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology as Vice-President and President (1987-1990) and directed the Journal of the Society. In spite of his standing in the international scientific community and the commitments with e.g. the National Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Societies for Electroencephalography and Clinical Neurophysiology or the EEC European Society for Culture, his enthusiasm and energies were mostly devoted to the neurological community in his country. On the academic side, his main attainments were the organization of introductory and advanced courses in clinical electromyography that were held periodically and contributed to the nationwide growth of a common background on the matter. His teaching attitude was purposely nonacademic and casual, though highly efficient, and matched a natural gentleman’s style based on understanding, sense of humor, confidence and modesty. Health problems had not slowed down his activities and did not affect these attitudes; his passing away during his sleep at home in Pavia, a few hours after a national scientific congress, was strictly consistent with his life-style.

Walter G. Sannita