Foreword

The problems involved in the growth and loss of hair are in fact a fascinating scientific challenge and the possession of a luxurious head of hair has always been a profound aesthetic concern of mankind. There is no doubt that the first scientific study of the biology of the human hair was performed by Raymond Sabouraud at the beginning of this century. His clinical description of the fate of scalp-hair, from childhood to senescence, still remains classic. However, Sabouraud could not solve this problem by the techniques known at his time. It is the merit of Prof. William Montagna to have initiated the modern era of investigation of the biology of hair within a broad framework including phylogenesis, ontogenesis, anatomy, histology, biochemistry and endocrinology. Prof. Baccaredda-Boy was one of the first to pursue these investigations
and to recognize their importance for experimental and clinical dermatology. He created in his clinic in Genoa a research Center devoted to this problem which has been developed in a brilliant way by the unremitting effort of Prof. Moretti and his collaborators. We are indebted to this group to have organized this Symposium and welcome the opportunity to be hosts of a meeting assembling so many eminent scientists from all over the world. We are confident that their discourse and informal exchange of experience will provide the soil for new ideas which are the requisites of progress in basic research.

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