

## In memory of a Teacher: Attilio Voglino



I was lucky enough to work for some years, starting from 1980, in the Department of Pediatric Dermatology directed by Professor Attilio Voglino and to receive his scientific teachings, and above all those ones on how to behave.

He was a true pioneer of children's dermatology in Italy. Graduated in Rome in 1949 at the age of 26, he had shown interest in this particular branch since that time. Convinced of the need for a solid foundation of pediatric knowledge, he specialized first in Pediatrics and later in Dermatology. Already in service in the early 1950s at the Dermopathic Institute of the Immaculate Conception (IDI), he immediately published the first scientific papers on «Minerva Dermatologica», one of which, concerning Behcet's disease, was reported in the prestigious journal «La presse medicale». In 1967 he obtained the title of professor in Dermatology at the Catholic University of Rome. In 1972 he was appointed Head of the first in Italy autonomous Department of Pediatric Dermatology, again at the IDI. From the following year he was called to succeed Dr. Ugo Piazza, as Dermatologist at the Directorate of Health and Hygiene, Governorate of the Vatican City, carrying out this activity during three pontificates. He has published

numerous scientific papers in Italian and foreign journals, actively participating in congresses all over the world. Speaking fluent English and French, he felt comfortable in international meetings, becoming friend with other great Dermatologists such as M. Larregue, Y. De Prost, A.M. Pierini, R. Happle, just to name a few. In 1988, after leaving the service at the IDI, he continued his profession and above all his scientific commitment until a few years ago.

He was an honorary member of some of the main Italian Dermatological Societies; for many years he was a member of the Editorial Board of the European Journal of Pediatric Dermatology

The peculiar traits of his character were very easily identifiable. First of all an extraordinary altruism I would say innate: at just 15 years old he received the Bronze Medal for Civil Valor for having carried out a rescue at sea! He really was a great practicing sportsman: swimming above all (he was a native of Gaeta), but also cycling and gymnastics. Hence the kindness of mind of him; with an overused phrase I would say “a gentleman of past times”. A lover of flowers and poetry particularly of the Italian nineteenth century, he wrote poetry himself. In love with his family, he did not particularly like the limelight: rarely in the front row, which he willingly left to others, he participated in conference discussions to satisfy his desire to learn and to deepen his knowledge. He loved teaching young dermatologists, encouraging them to study, but also not being afraid of facing congressional audiences. And we were sure of his help in case of need!

I cannot conclude this writing without remembering who much more than me worked with professor Voglino and was his main student: Mauro Paradisi, who left us prematurely in this dramatic 2020. He would have shared and illuminated this memory with his sensitivity. Now we are all a little more alone.

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