

OBITUARY

In memory of Michele La Placa

**Emeritus Professor of University of Bologna
Founder of New Microbiologica**

July 8, 1931 - October 5, 2015

Professor La Placa silently left us on October 5, 2015 at the age of 84. He had been Director of the Institute of Microbiology of the Medical Faculty, Director of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Bologna. He was also Director of the Specialization School in Microbiology and Virology, one of the first to be established in Italy.

He was also the founder of *New Microbiologica*, the first Italian Scientific Journal to be indexed in *Current Awareness in Biological Sciences*, *Current Contents*, *Excerpta Medica*, *Index Medicus* and *Microbiology Abstracts*, with a good impact factor.

He received many scientific awards, including the national *Dante De Blasi* prize for research into the etiology, pathogenesis, immunity and prophylaxis of infectious diseases and the national prize for Virology awarded by the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*.

First and foremost, Professor La Placa was an unforgettable teacher for all of us. We cannot forget his knowledge on all aspects of microbiology, his indications and suggestions. And we cannot forget the long afternoons he spent discussing experiments, devising new tests, awaiting results, repeating the same experiment over and over again. We were never alone. He was always ready to help all day every day, with his door open even during weekends. We always discussed the data obtained together, planning and designing further experiments and meetings.

All of us who were fortunate to have shared his company for so many years, have learned so much: Professor La Placa was an excellent teacher and an excellent laboratory companion. He was able to transmit to us his love and passion for virology and he taught us the rationale of bacteriology and virology and the correct approach to medical microbiological research and the diagnosis of infection.

*Roberto Cevenini, Maria Paola Landini, Maria Carla Re
and all his Bologna University alumni*

