
In Memoriam



Prof. Ignazio Olivieri
1953 -2017

Prof. Ignazio Olivieri sadly passed away at the early age of 64 on July 28, 2017 due to colon cancer. He was an accomplished clinical investigator, a very fine man and a great friend. He was a member of the editorial board of *Behçet's Disease and Other Autoinflammatory Conditions* since its inception, the immediate past-president of the Italian Society of Rheumatology and the chief of rheumatology of the Rheumatology Department of Lucania, at San Carlo Hospital of Potenza and Madonna delle Grazie Hospital of Matera, Italy. Prof. Olivieri was a devoted student of Behçet's disease (BD) for many years and is surely one of the early investigators who contributed to the current and ever increasing awareness of and meaningful research in this condition. For this he surely deserves the gratitude of both the scientific community and of BD patients, both his own and globally.

There have been specific areas where his and his co-workers contributions to BD can be broadly itemised. Their much quoted epidemiologic work convincingly showed that not only was BD not very rare in Italy, a vast geographical area in Europe, but that it was definitely a milder disease as compared to BD in endemic areas like Turkey or Japan. Secondly, with his extensive research and expertise in seronegative spondyloarthropathies (SpA) his group has been prolific in the now almost half a century old debate whether BD belongs in the broad disease category of SpA. We like to think, as a seasoned investigator, he was more of a splitter in this debate not only with respect to BD but also to SpA. Moreover, Prof. Ol-

ivieri and his group have been active in studying and publishing on the usefulness of new remedies in the management of BD. In this line, he has been a key member of the EULAR expert task force on recommendations for the management of Behçet's.

It was in 1998 that he, along with Prof. Carlo Salvarani, convened the 8th International Congress of BD in Reggio Emilia, Italy. It was a well organised, stimulating meeting and much scientific/clinical good came out of it. Last year, in September 2016 Prof. Olivieri again convened, this time the 17th International Congress of BD in Matera, his home town. Ignazio was rather ill with his cancer but despite this he also made it a very successful meeting both in science and socially. He was again our scientifically very meticulous, most friendly and a most considerate host for which he truly deserved the standing ovation he received at the end.

"If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run / Yours is the earth and everything that's in it / And which is more you will be a Man my son." – R. Kipling

Ignazio is survived by his wife Dr Angela Padula, also a rheumatologist and a very helpful, dedicated, a truly complementing co-worker in many, many ways, and a beloved daughter, Francesca.

Hasan Yazici
Carlo Salvarani