

Professor Filomeno Tedeschi



Filomeno Tedeschi, retired full professor of Anatomic Pathology at the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Parma, suddenly passed away on 20th March 2008 aged 75 for heart attack.

He was born in Campolattaro (province of Benevento) on 12th June 1932. After completion of high school studies he went to Sardinia where he was medical student at the University of Sassari Medical School. Despite the small size and peripheral location of the University of Sassari in those times, the student community there was intellectually and politically very active and offered to the young student Filomeno Tedeschi the opportunity of meeting persons destined to very important personal careers, among whom Francesco Cossiga who later became the President of the Italian Republic. This exciting environment and the relevant personal contacts often returned among Filomeno's more vivid memories and stimulated his interest in politics, philosophy and human sciences that

remained well alive for the rest of his life. He was graduated in Medicine and Surgery with full marks discussing a thesis on the hemoagglutination properties of the Russian spring/summer encephalitis virus, a topic reflecting his former interest in Virology. Soon thereafter, the meeting with the captivating enthusiasm of Professor Armando Tardini, chairman of the Institute of Anatomic Pathology, University of Sassari, for morbid anatomy was crucial for the professional and academic career of Filomeno Tedeschi. He was rapidly appointed as assistant professor at the same Institute of Anatomic Pathology, from December 1957 to November 1963. When Professor Tardini moved to the chair of Anatomic Pathology of the University of Parma, he was appointed as acting head of the Institute from November 1963 to February 1964, when he reached his mentor at the Institute of Anatomic Pathology of the University of Parma, which he never left for the rest of his life. In this institution he was appointed assistant professor from 1965, vice-chairman from 1971, university lecturer in Histopathology Technique and Diagnostic since 1974 and full professor from 1st November 1980 on the basis of the results of a nationwide examination held in 1979. After Professor Tardini's death in 1991 he became Professor of Anatomic Pathology of the Medical School of the University of Parma and head of the Institute of Anatomic Pathology. He was also Chairman of the Post-graduate School of Anatomic Pathology of the University of Parma from 1991 to 1994 and, from February 2001 to December 2003, Chairman of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Parma.

During his professional life Prof. Filomeno Tedeschi was also member elected of the Administrative Board of the University of Parma for two terms from 1973 to 1977 and President of the Society for Medicine and Natural Sciences of Parma for the term 1999-2000. After his retirement in 2004, he was appointed by the Rector of the University of Parma as a member of the Supervisory Board of the University Hospital of Parma, a position still held at the time of his death.

The research interests of Professor Filomeno Tedeschi covered a broad spectrum of topics including both experimental and anatomic pathology. Among the former, the studies on the nuclear and mitochondrial relationships in the yeast under the influence of mitochondria inhibitors and/or regulating agents, carried out in collaboration with Professor Nelson Marmioli, Institute of Biology, University of Parma, deserve attention for their significant insights into these aspects of cell biology. But the main, long standing interest was certainly focused on neuropathology and originated from the meeting with the late neurologist Alfredo Lechi, Professor of Neurology at the University of Parma Medical School, with whom Filomeno Tedeschi had a sincere friendship and a very productive scientific collaboration. The untimely death of Professor Lechi did not arrest Tedeschi's in-

terest in neuropathology that continued by collaborating with other colleagues of the Neurological Clinic of the University of Parma, and resulted in his recognition as a highly reputed expert also at national and international levels.

Teaching was another field of devoted involvement of Professor Tedeschi. In spite of his frank and sometimes apparently surly character, generations of students of the Medical School, the School of Dentistry and numerous Postgraduate Schools for Resident training in different clinical disciplines attending to the courses he delivered soon realized his basic warmth and cordiality and, thanks to him and to his passionate dedication to pathology, could appreciate the fundamental role of this discipline in most domains of the medical life. It is for this reason and for his personal integrity, never allowed to be forgone for the ambitions and the hunger for success so common in the present times, that he is mourned by many friends, colleagues and former students.

He is survived by his dear wife Daniela, associate professor of Human Anatomy, and beloved daughter Tullia, researcher at the Department of Organic Chemistry, both at the University of Parma.

Professor Cesare Bordi