

## INTRODUCTION

Professor Ermanno Manni's career in Neuroscience has been an outstanding one. In 1960 when we were in the process of establishing the Laboratory of Neurophysiology at Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center in Portland, Oregon, now named «The Robert S. Dow Neurological Sciences Institute», I needed the assistance of a cerebellar physiologist. I wrote my friend and collaborator the late Professor Giuseppe Moruzzi whom I had first met in 1936 while we were both fellows in Professor Federic Bremer's laboratory in Brussels, Belgium. I asked him to suggest someone who could be recruited to assume such a role in this new laboratory. It seemed at that time there were three areas of cerebellar physiology which could be profitably explored. One was a possible role in sensation, the cerebellar relationship to the gamma motor system and finally an exploration of its relation to epilepsy.

Manni arrived with his wife and four small children, having crossed the Atlantic by ship and traveled over the continental United States by several days on a train ride. He enthusiastically supplied the man power along with two other mature scientists, one from Germany, Professor H. D. Henatsch and one from Mexico, Professor F. Guardiola. The laboratory was located on the sixth floor of the oldest part of the hospital which had become unsafe for patient care. In these uninviting surroundings, their productivity was outstanding. Ermanno Manni contributed toward sixteen publications initiated during his tenure of only two years in this newly established laboratory. Had it not been for the enthusiasm and cleverness of these scientists from outside the USA, the laboratory would never have gotten off the ground. It now is an institution of international reputation with 23 senior scientists with an annual budget of almost 3.5 million dollars. The international flavour has been maintained through the years. Coming to the laboratory to collaborate with our own scientists in addition to Ermanno Manni and the others mentioned above, Antonio Bava, Vito Enrico Pettorossi, Pierangelo Errico, Paolo Marchettini all from Italy as well as a large group from other countries including China, England, Spain, Israel, Chile, Sweden, Norway, Japan, Germany, Mexico, South Korea and Turkey. The RSDNSI has assumed a role in training post-doctoral fellows, Ph.D. candidates, college and high school students. The Institute contains programs ranging from molecular biology to the physiology of the human central and peripheral nervous system including vision and hearing and vestibular function. My role has been very minor during the last thirty years but the example of Professor Manni at its beginning has had a great influence on the growth of this institution. Without his outstanding diligence while in Portland it would never have reached its international reputation. Professor Manni's influence on Italian physiology has likewise been outstanding as evidenced by the many students who have contributed to this volume which I am honoured to

play a small part. His productivity in a wide variety of brain stem and cranial nerve anatomy and physiology will have a lasting impact on neuroscience throughout the world.

R. S. Dow