

EDITORS' PREFACE

The occasion for this and the next special issue of *Archives italiennes de Biologie* is that of honouring Professor Giuseppe Moruzzi on the tenth anniversary of his death. Professor Moruzzi, head of the Institute of Physiology of the University of Pisa from 1949 till 1980 and of the Institute of Neurophysiology of the CNR of Pisa from 1968 till 1980, passed away on the eleventh of March 1986 after 76 years of active and creative life. His achievements in several domains of the classical neurophysiology had a profound influence on the rapid development of the Neurosciences in the early fifties.

For several decades Professor Moruzzi has spread his scientific knowledges, peculiarly amalgamated with his deep humanistic spirit, to numerous Italian and foreign researchers, who came to Pisa to receive some training in neurophysiology and carry out research projects, which had a great influence on the development of their scientific activity. An outstanding teacher, both as a lecturer and scientific supervisor, he was responsible for the recruitment and the formation of several generations of neuroscientists.

Moruzzi's pupils have thought that they could contribute with some of their young co-workers to the celebration of this anniversary by presenting original papers or review articles on different fields of the Neurosciences. The selected topics indicate how wide has been his teaching in influencing their scientific activity which could be developed either in Pisa or in other Italian Universities.

Ten years represent, also, a sufficiently long period of time to indicate how deep are the feelings which connect all the members of the Moruzzi School of Neurophysiology to the memory of their common teacher. All the contributors to this and the next special issue remember with gratitude their indebtedness to Moruzzi. His human warmth, expansive intellect and strict adherence to ethical principles have secured him a place in the memories of those who had the privilege to know him and work with him.

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