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**Professor Giovanni Di Chiro, Director of Neuroradiology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, was the recipient of the "Ottorini Rossi Award".**

M Leonardi

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## A Letter from Italy

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Professor Giovanni Di Chiro, Director of Neuroradiology at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, was the recipient of the "Ottorini Rossi Award," a prize presented to prominent figures in the world of neurological sciences by the University of Pavia. Professor Di Chiro delivered the inaugural lecture on the occasion of a conference on "Functional and Therapeutic Neurology." The meeting was dedicated to him by the University of Pavia and was held June 15–16, 1992.

At the end of January 1992, Professor Giovanni Ruggiero reached retirement age and stepped down from his position as Director of his department at the Hospital Bellaria in Bologna. He has been appointed emeritus Consultant and now plans to spend his time on scientific work and writing. Professor Ruggiero is a neuroradiologist, poet, and author, but is most famous as the founder of Italian neuroradiology. All of Italy owes him a tremendous debt for his work in creating the basis for the discipline of neuroradiology in Italian hospitals.

Changes in the Italian legal framework will have a profound effect on the practice of medicine in Italy beginning in 1992. New legislation takes account of differences in professional activities between public hospitals and private hospitals that function "under agreement" (convezionati) with the National Health System. The latter have agreed to treat patients covered by health insurance. Radiologists and neuroradiologists will now have to choose between professional activities in "public hospitals" and "private hospitals under agreement." Working independently, or "purely" as it is known, will still be permitted, and such service will be available to patients who pay for themselves or are insured. It is likely that, in Italy in the near future, private insurance will become more prevalent and this will certainly precipitate many changes in medical practice.

Moreover, in 1993, all protectionist barriers that divide the European community will disappear. What this will mean for the practice of medicine is unclear, but it is certain that greater mobility and mutual adjustment will occur.

### Meetings

The Italian conference scene has always been very active, especially due to the strong support it has enjoyed from industry. Unfortunately, the Ministry for Health has recently decided to put restriction on sponsoring, in order to reduce the number of these meetings considered too "costly." However, a number of major events have taken place or are planned:

#### Porticcio (Corsica) 15–18 May, 1992

The European Society of Neuroradiology sponsored a course in neuroradiology in Porticcio (Corsica) May 15–18, 1992. The Chairman was Professor Ch. Raybaud, Hopital Nord, Marseilles. The Course this year focused on the spinal column and medulla.

#### Chianciano (Siena) 28–30 May, 1992

The 32nd National Conference of the Society for Hospital Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Neuroradiology was organized by Dr Gambacorta, a neurosurgeon from Siena. The meeting addressed topics of interdisciplinary interest such as therapeutic neuroradiology, the cervical cord, and other medical information.

#### Verona 8–12 June, 1992

This meeting discussed "New Trends in Management of Cerebro-Vascular Malformations." The meeting was organized by Dr A. Pasqualin, a neurosurgeon from Verona, and provided the opportunity to focus on an area in which neurosurgeons and neuroradiologists in Verona have special experience.

#### Pavia 15–16 June, 1992

"Therapeutic and Functional Neuroradiology." The Secretary of this meeting was Dr F. Zappoli, a neuroradiologist from Pavia. This meeting was dedicated to Professor Giovanni Di Chiro (see above).

#### Milan 1–7 October, 1992

The 10th National Conference of the Italian Neuroradiology Association. The Chairman of this meeting will be Professor G. Scotti, Director of Neuroradiology at the University of Milan. The meeting will concentrate in particular on research in neuroradiology and how it has stimulated medical research. This is clearly the top priority for Italian neuroradiologists.

Information about future meetings (of neuroradiologic interest) in Italy may be obtained from Dr Marco Leonardi: tel (0039) 432 552735; fax (0039) 337 532604.

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The above information was sent to *AJNR* by Dr Marco Leonardi, an International Consultant to the Editor of *AJNR*.