

Editorial

On the 3rd October 2010 Professor Maurizio Ripari, editor-in-chief of this journal, deceased by a sudden and brief illness.

As a first, being his successor in the role of editor-in-chief, I want to participate to the sadness and sorrow of all the people who knew and estimated him; and for me it is very important to spend few words about Professor Ripari in this first editorial after his death. Moreover, due to the great esteem and affection we felt for Maurizio Ripari, we would like to share these few notes with Professor Antonella Polimeni, the Director of the Department of Odontostomatological and Maxillofacial Sciences of “Sapienza” University of Rome and Chief of Editorial Board.

Professor Ripari was a leading and esteemed figure in Italian Academic Dentistry during the last thirty years. He actively contributed to the transformation of our discipline, from a side and secondary discipline of the Course of Medicine to a prestigious and autonomous Degree.

From 1980, together with Professor Luigi Capozzi, he was one of the historical teachers of the Degree course in “Odontoiatria e Protesi Dentaria” of the “Sapienza” University of Rome, until 2007 when he was elected as President of the Course; he brought the teaching to unprecedented levels of excellence. During his long career, he taught also in other Italian Universities, diffusing his expertise all around the country. From 2000 to 2010, he was also elected Director of Postgraduate Program in “Oral Surgery”.

He generously contributed to the diffusion of dental knowledge both through his numerous publications and thanks to his active participation to congresses and meetings; he was always ready to participate to cultural events, especially when they were dedicated to young dentists.

However in this brief note, we do not want to remember only his academic career or his professional abilities, but we want primarily to remark his human values that made him a beloved and esteemed teacher and colleague.

As a teacher, he was rigorous but fair with the students, since he considered his moral duty to create high level dentists to guarantee them the necessary skills for a successful professional life; in the meanwhile he was always ready to listen to his students in order to satisfy their right requests needs. High moral stature, equilibrium, openness and capability as a mediator were his most appreciated qualities, recognized to him by all his professional and academic colleagues, as demonstrated by the wide testimonies of esteem and condolence that were generated by his death.

We want to conclude this editorial in memory of Maurizio Ripari in the sureness that he will be always remembered by all: friends, students and colleagues who had the luck to know him, and that, above all, he will remain forever in the heart of all the people who loved him.

Susanna Annibaldi