

Obituary

Giovanni Dogo, MD (1917-1986)

Dr Giovanni Dogo, Associate Secretary-General of ISBI, died on 22 February 1986. He was born at Strà, near Venice, in 1917 and graduated at Padua in 1946 after active participation with Partisans of the Venetian Resistance.

He received from A. B. Wallace of Edinburgh his first teaching in burns treatment and plastic surgery and used this experience on his return to his homeland to become the pioneer of burns therapy and reconstructive surgery in Italy.

Not yet forty years of age, he was appointed in 1957 Chief of the Division of Plastic Surgery at the Civic Hospital, Padua, and in 1967 the University appointed him Director of the Institute of Plastic Surgery and of the Specialisation School.

Endowed with a lively intelligence that enabled him to grasp the essence of problems, he found countless opportunities in his great scientific culture for the articulation of his work of study and research. In the 1950s he was the first to realise that homografts of cadaver lypholised skin could be used as a biological dressing in severe burns.

The concept of "piloted healing" which he developed led him to set up the first "skin bank" in Italy in which he stored not only lypholised skin but also deep frozen skin, in the light of what he had learnt from cryobiology about the conservation of living tissues by using very low temperatures.

His activity is attested by over 300 publications of his own and by his pupils.

His work received many official recognitions and honours, the most significant of these being: in 1973 the "Everett Evans" Prize from Texas University; in 1974 the Medical Branch Prize from Texas University; in 1980 the Diploma of Merit in Education, Culture and Art from the President of the Republic of Italy and the Diploma of the Cross of St Anthony of Egypt, given in the name of the Patriarch.

Among his undertakings we must recall the foundation in 1969 of the *Rivista Italiana di Chirurgia Plastica (Italian Journal of Plastic Surgery)* which he edited until his death, and in 1983 the constitution of the Mediterranean Burns Club, of which he was president.



He was a member of numerous cultural and professional bodies, such as the Italian Society of Plastic Surgery (president in 1975), the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, the American Burn Association, the International College of Surgeons, the Institute of Society, Ethics and Life Science and the Adjudicating Committee of the G. Whitaker International Burns Prize, Palermo, under the patronage of the Sicilian Region. On the day of his death the General Assembly of ISBI, held during the recent Melbourne Congress, nominated him honorary president of the International Society of Burn Injuries.

Next July, on the occasion of the official prize-giving ceremony of the G. Whitaker Burns Prize,

his wife Taina will be presented with a special "G. Whitaker—Palermo Prize" in memoriam. He leaves his wife, two sons Marco and Alessandro, and three grandchildren.

Whoever had the privilege of living by his side as a pupil and of being considered by him a colleague and friend feels a profound solitude now that he is no longer here. He leaves to us the following teachings passed on in almost lapidary style:

- Profession is dignity if it is love.
- Dignity accepts no compromise.
- Dignified respect from others is something won, not bought or merely given.

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