

## OBITUARY

## IN MEMORIAM LEONIDA SANTAMARIA, M.D.



Dr. Leonida Santamaria, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Pathology, Toxicology and Oncology*, Guest Editorial Member of the *Journal of Experimental Oncology*, died suddenly in Pavia, Italy, on November 7, 2001. He was 78 years old.

Dr. Santamaria was born in Alvignano (Caserta), Italy. He obtained his Medical Doctor degree at the University of Naples in 1946 and specialized in general pathology at the Institute of General Pathology, University of Naples (1947–1948) and at the University of Perugia (1948–1951). In 1954, he obtained the title of *Liberò docente* in general pathology and in biological chemistry through a competitive examination. This was followed by a professorial appointment in general pathology at the University of Milan (1955–1963). He was then appointed as Professor of General Pathology at the University of Sassari, where he became Director of the Institute of Biological Chemistry and General Pathology and later Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Natural Sciences.

Dr. Santamaria's academic career culminated with the invitation from the historic and reputed University of Pavia to join its illustrious faculty as Professor of General Pathology and Director of the "Camillo Golgi" Institute of General Pathology in 1970. He helped to develop the well-known School of Specialization in General Pathology and the Research Center for the Prevention

of Tumors. At the University of Pavia Dr. Santamaria was an organizer and an active contributor of the distinguished international event of the "*Giornale Pavesi*" which promoted international scientific exchange and cooperation. In 1999 he became Emeritus Professor of General Pathology at the University of Pavia.

The field of interest of Dr. Santamaria has been "Carotenoids and cancer" centered on the discovery of the photodynamic activity of phenothiazine compounds and their photodynamic reactions. During the last 20 years he devoted his research efforts to studies on the chemoprevention of carotenoids independently of their provitamin A activity. In collaboration with his wife, Dr. Amalia Bianchi Santamaria, and a group of talented coinvestigators, he demonstrated the chemopreventive activity of beta-carotene and canthaxanthin in experimental models of skin, breast and gastric photocarcinogenesis.

Dr. Santamaria has cooperated with the Institute of Experimental Pathology, Oncology and Radiobiology of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, in particular, in the field of ecology and cancer. He has initiated the organization of the Ukrainian Section of European Institute of Ecology and Cancer. Dr. Santamaria has visited Kyev and actively participated in the scientific meetings here.

A valued and insightful editor, Leonida Santamaria edited a number of scientific periodicals that were well received in the scientific world. Since 1994, he has been the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Medicine, Biology, and the Environment*, the official journal of the European Institute of Ecology and Cancer and the International Society for Nutrition and Cancer.

He was very active in social and political life. Dr. Santamaria was the Honourable Citizen of his town and has been awarded with the Medal for Scientific Merit and Social Activity. He has been excellent teacher, favorite professor and a person of exceptional benevolence.

A man of broad intellectual interests and accomplishments, and a true renaissance man, Dr. Santamaria was recognized in Italy and abroad for his scientific and civic contributions, receiving many awards and honorary citations. He is survived by his wife and scientific collaborator, Amalia Bianchi Santamaria, D.Sc., Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Pavia; a daughter, Maria Luisa Capobianco, J.D., her husband Davide Capobianco, J.D., and their two children, Silvia and Filippo; and a son, Giovanni Santamaria, Ph.D. We join the family in mourning the passing of this distinguished colleague.

Editorial Board of the Journal "Experimental Oncology",  
in cooperation with Dr. Edgar M. Moran, M.D. (Italy)