

Editorial

This issue contains manuscripts of some of the presentations at the meeting “The Vestibular System: a clinical and scientific update in Siena” that was held in Siena, Italy on April 5th–6th, 2013. The symposium was organized to honor Professor Daniele Nuti and his academic career.

In his long career of forty years in Siena, Professor Daniele Nuti has passionately studied the vestibular system both as a clinician and as a scientist, making fundamental contributions to the understanding and the treatment of disorders of the labyrinth. His special interests in vestibular neuritis and BPPV, and his unique position in Tuscany as the physician one must see immediately if you have vertigo, have made him one of the top academic vestibular clinicians in the world, analyzing and treating hundreds of patients every year.

Daniele became the director of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Siena in 2006. Daniele and his trainees in Siena have had various international collaborations, including a period when Daniele was a visiting scientist in the Neurology Department of the Johns Hopkins Hospital with Dr. David S. Zee.

Daniele turned 65 on February 17th 2013 and we used that as a pretext to gather friends and colleagues in Siena, to discuss science and to enjoy the unparalleled beauty of the city in which he has always been an active personality, especially in Tartuca Contrada, the contrada of the turtle. Siena is divided into 17 districts (or contradas) and Daniele was born into the Contrada della Tartuca. He has always had “another life”, as do all true denizens of Siena. While Daniele’s mind be-

longs to the labyrinth, his heart belongs to Tartuca, and with his fellow contrada members each year he battles to win the Palio, the victory banner of the famous Palio horse race which takes place around the magnificent Campo of Siena. Being part of a contrada means being part of a community, sharing responsibilities and goals, valuing education and tradition, and especially promoting the growth and success of youth of the contrada. These are the values that Daniele has always carried in his career as a teacher and scientist, and which have made him a dear friend and special mentor to so many of us. When away from medicine he has been a national level fencer, winning the fencing world championship of medical doctors, an outstanding tennis player and is now an avid golfer, competing frequently and winning.

We don’t want to celebrate Daniele too much here since we know, like every great scientist and teacher, he is uncomfortable with excessive praise. We only want to thank him for his friendship and plan to continue to sit with him in the Campo, either discussing new research ideas or just talking about and analyzing the last Palio, always in front of a glass of one of the best red wines of Toscana.

We thank The Journal of Vestibular Research for the opportunity to host this special issue.

Marco Mandalà
Stefano Ramat
David S. Zee