

In Memoriam of Giancarlo Zaoli

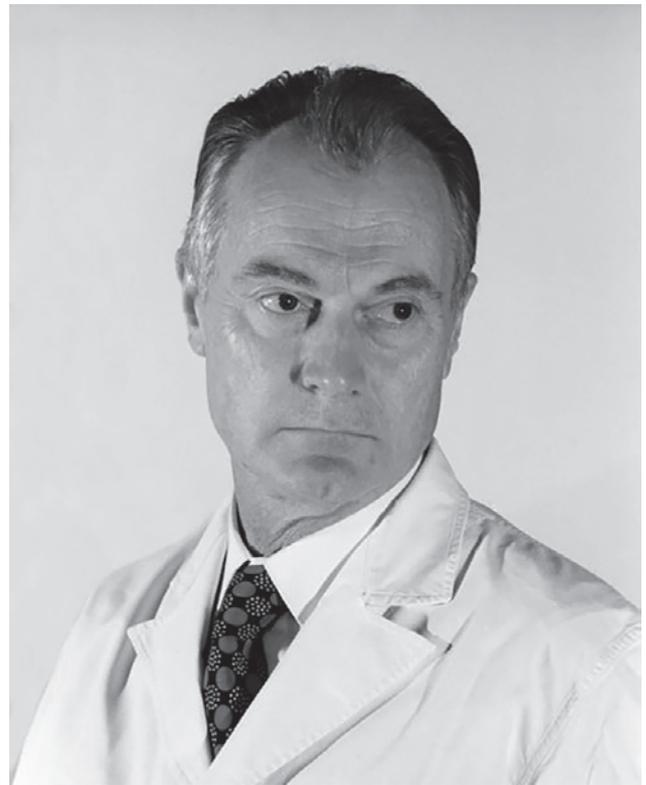
(27 November 1925 - 31 July 2018)

Another member of the group of distinguished colleagues who contributed decisively in reforming and re-launching our Society during 1970-1990 has left us. Giancarlo Zaoli was born in Forlì on November 27, 1925, and in Bologna undertook his studies in Medicine, graduating in 1949. He immediately became interested in ENT under the guidance of a great teacher, Pietro Caliceti. After the death of the latter, he moved to the ENT Clinic at the University of Perugia, then directed by Domenico Filippo, and gave an active contribution to the Institute's scientific activities. He continued his clinical experience at the Hospital of Forlì, in the Unit then directed by Prof. Fabio Fabbi, and subsequently managed to independently form a new ENT unit at Forlimpopoli. In 1968, his professional career took a radical turn and he returned towards a hospital environment.

In that year, in fact, an important ENT Department had been established at the Hospital of Rimini (before there was only a consultancy service) and Zaoli was made Head of the Department, a position that he maintained until his retirement in 1991. In those 20 years, he was able to advance the activities of this Department in a very significant manner. He was able to stimulate his colleagues by directing each of them to deepen and cultivate with particular dedication at least one of the various disciplines that make up our specialty (from imbalance disorders to allergology, from phoniatrics to plastic surgery, etc.).

During those years, Zaoli also knew how to bring his own active contribution to the life and evolution of our Society, exactly in the period of its renewal, and was President of the AOOI from 1984-1986 and of the SIO from 1990-1991. From a professional and scientific point of view, I remember that the greatest passion of Giancarlo Zaoli, the sector in which he gave the most important contributions, was plastic surgery, a subject that he, along with Valerio Micheli-Pellegrini, began, in Italy, to transferring ENT skills into routine practice, at high levels and publishing articles and monographs of national and international relevance. Of fundamental importance was the Official Report SIO "Reconstructive surgery in cervico-cephalic district tumours" that Zaoli presented, in collaboration with Giovanni Motta, at the 1978 congress in Modena.

What I have described above gives a fairly comprehensive picture of the professional life of Giancarlo Zaoli, a dutiful remembrance of his work, intended above all for those who did not know it directly. For me and for all the others who were his friends, his human qualities were exceptional. He was a good, friendly man who knew how to deal with life with extreme gentleness. A man who loved fast sports cars and refined clothes, but for this he certainly could not be considered a fatuous individual. Indeed, he was extremely practical and generous as shown by the work he carried out for many years for an association of laryngectomised patients. If, ultimately, we need a single definition that can sum up the human qualities of Giancarlo Zaoli, I think that the best is that he was a very great gentleman.



Giorgio Sperati