Twenty-five centuries have passed since the Greek philosopher Heraclitus pronounced this immortal phrase, but it is as much in keeping now as it was then and its vibrant universality is constantly being demonstrated not only in everyday life, but also in the scientific world.

Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica, Official Journal of the Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (S.I.O. e Ch. C.-F.), is now entering its 23rd year with the same enthusiasm as ever and the sincere wish to further develop and improve with some substantial changes which are not merely printing features, but should more aptly be considered a milestone in the history of the Society.

In fact, by unanimous approval of the Board and Assembly of S.I.O., Acta will as from no. 1, 2003 be entirely in English with the use of Italian only for the abstracts of scientific papers and the “Notiziario”, with news of interest to our Italian readers. The decision to produce Acta in English was meditated for a long time and, indeed, it was not an easy decision but it was, finally, taken on the grounds of the scientific interest.

On the one hand, our affection for past traditions (let us not forget that Acta is a continuation of “Annali di Laringologia, Otologia e Faringologia”, founded in 1901), for the Italian language and culture (whose importance in arts, science and literature is universally recognized), for the history of Italian Otorhinolaryngology (also abundant in famous names and scientific contributions) have suggested, for many years, that Italian be maintained as the official language of the Journal, which, nonetheless, despite the “foreign” language enjoyed a good international circulation with appreciative comments from abroad.

On the other hand, “everything flows, everything becomes”! Scientific horizons, and, first of all otolaryngologic horizons have gradually become much broader now extending worldwide thanks to “global communications”, that now enable us to get in touch and to know in a very short, or in “real”, time everything that is happening or is imagined, written or produced, in any part of the world.

Sono passati venticinque secoli dall’immortale affermazione del filosofo greco Eracleto, ma la sua costante attualità e la sua vibrante universalità trovano continua dimostrazione non solo nella realtà della vita quotidiana, ma anche in ambito scientifico.

La rivista Acta Otorinolaringologica Italica, Organo ufficiale della Società Italiana di Otorinolaringologia e Chirurgia Cervico-Facciale (S.I.O. e Ch. C.-F.), alle soglie del suo 23° anno di vita dimostra la sua piena vitalità e la sua decisa volontà di evoluzione ed innovazione con un cambiamento che, per significato programmatico ancor più che per caratteristiche tipografiche, può essere a buon diritto considerato epocale nella storia della Società stessa.


La decisione di passare all’edizione inglese della Rivista è stata largamente meditata e in qualche modo sofferta, ma è risultata vincente sulla base di considerazioni di preminente interesse scientifico.

Da un lato infatti l’attaccamento alle tradizioni passate (non si dimentichi che Acta continua gli “Annali di Laringologia, Otologia e Faringologia”, fondati nel lontano 1901), al patrimonio della lingua e della cultura italiana (la cui ricchezza nelle arti, nelle scienze e nella letteratura è universalmente riconosciuta), alla storia dell’Otorinolaringoiatria italiana (altrettanto ricca di nomi e contributi scientifici prestigiosi) hanno per molti anni suggerito il mantenimento dell’italiano come lingua della Rivista Ufficiale della SIO, che tuttavia anche in questa edizione ha ottenuto valida diffusione internazionale e lusinghieri apprezzamenti all’estero.

D’altro canto, “tutto passa, tutto diventa”! Gli orizzonti scientifici, e “in primis” gli orizzonti dell’otorinolaringoiatria, si sono progressivamente ampliati fino ad estendersi a un contesto veramente “mondiale”, grazie alla “comunicazione globale” che oggi ci con-
In such an explosive scientific evolution and stormy human context, Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica was forced to make the decision and take this important step to start the English edition of the Journal. English is recognized as the universal scientific language and has already opened previously unimaginable and undeniable opportunities for the exchange and comparison of data, ideas, experience and results. The Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, aware of this need, agreed to overcome their rightful pride in their own language and traditions to embrace a more universal scientific perspective and to meet the international community again with a new editorial look and potentiality.

Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica is here appearing, in its new English edition, not only as an interesting showcase of Italian O.R.L. science and knowledge before a large attentive international audience, but also aims at acting as an effective stage where colleagues (Otolaryngologists and other ORL-related specialists) from all over the world will be able to “meet”: the English language will make their approach to the Journal and to the scientific life of Italian Otorhinolaryngology easier and more stimulating. Let me take advantage of this occasion, also on behalf of the Editorial Board, to warmly invite all foreign colleagues to continue and increase their much appreciated and valid contributions to the scientific life of the Journal.

But the English edition of Acta would risk being a sterile and short-sighted operation if it were not followed by a second editorial step in the very near future: namely, the Journal available via Internet, with completely free access to all the scientific contributions for all those interested.

Launching of the complete Internet edition of Acta, with English texts, is planned as from the 4/2003 issue (July-August 2003) and will represent the true critical moment to open the scientific contents of the journal to immediate and easy access for colleagues throughout the world.

Albeit having decided to produce the English edition of Acta should not be considered as a single and isolated step, but rather part of a rapid and fertile evolutionary process aimed at further promoting the diffusion of the Italian Otorhinolaryngology at international level.

Whilst many skilled and well-known Italian colleagues are constantly engaged in study and research activities and fulfil many international engagements, it is also worthwhile pointing out that the Italian Otorhinolaryngology community will be playing an important role in the next few years in very important and world renowned initiatives, among which the organisation, in Rome, of the World Congress 2005 of the International Federation of ORL Societies.
(IFOS), under the Chairmanship of Prof. Desiderio Passali. This task, as already mentioned in the Journal, represents an extraordinary acknowledgement of prestige for Otorhinolaryngology in Italy.

The life of the Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology will also be involved, in the next few years, in other initiatives and engagements, amongst which the “international” and continuously evolving S.I.O. National Congress - the XC Congress in Rome, in May 2003, under the Chairmanship of Prof. Enrico de Campora, is a clear example - and the organisation of the Grado-Venice International Congress on Oral Cancer - ICOOC in 2006.

In conclusion, even if the world situation is, at present, faced with many difficult situations, the years to come are densely filled with engagements and appointments which will be undertaken by the Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology with authority and experience. All our colleagues, as well as those from other specialties involved in ORL, both in Italy and elsewhere, are invited to actively participate, contributing to the general interest of science and otolaryngology.

Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica, on the one hand, will follow the trail of the former famous Editors-in-Chief Carlo Calearo, Enrico de Campora and Alberto Staffieri and, on the other, will be actively engaged in contributing to this ambitious project of evolution. We are confident that we can rely on the support and the collaboration of all our readers and leave to S.I.O. members and Acta readers the task of judging whether the results live up to our hopes and expectations.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, heartfelt thanks to all the colleagues welcoming this important change in Acta Otorhinolaryngologica Italica with favour and interest.

Marco Piemonte, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief

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