

In Memoriam of Piero Miani

(1929 - 2017)

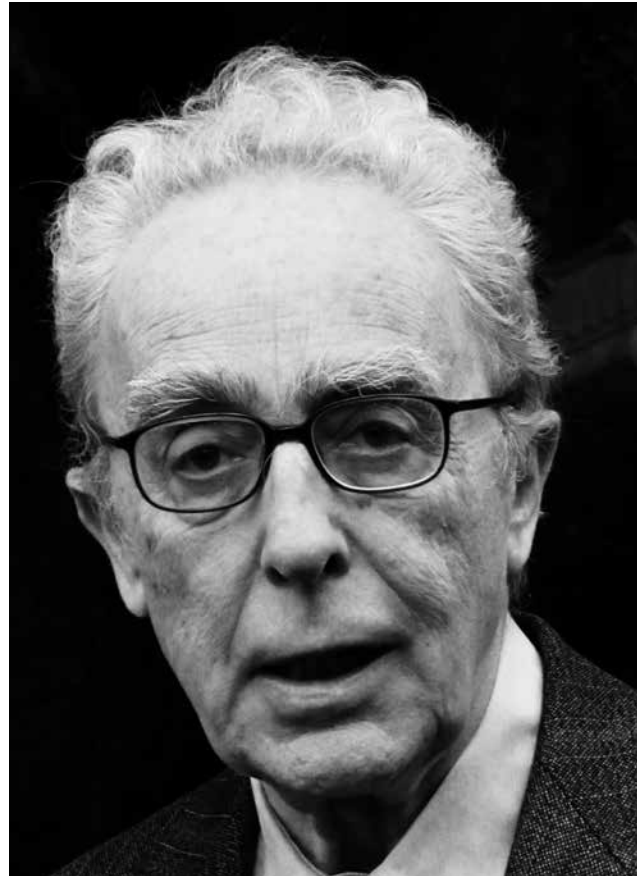
Another dear, close friend has left us. A colleague who profoundly influenced our lives and the Italian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, a person with untold charisma and rare human qualities.

The professional life of Piero Miani can be divided in two phases. The first was the university, from the mid-1950s to 1969, at Parma, at the school of Carlo Felice Porta. It was a promising career culminated in his position as professor of Audiology, which was interrupted as he felt more inclined to clinical practice, which for him was a sign of success and satisfaction. The second phase started in June 1969 as department head at Cremona that was perfected 8 years later with his return to Udine, the city of his roots, to direct the ORL Division of that prestigious hospital. The many scientific contributions by Piero remembered today during his long career may seem superfluous, but I cannot avoid mentioning at least two of the most significant ones, namely his work on cervical-facial lymphatic pathways and the basics of thyroid surgery. All of us colleagues learned something from him, and not only from a professional point of view, but even more from a human standpoint.

Our Scientific Society owes much to Piero Miani since he was the youngest of a group of exceptional colleagues who in 1976 were able to transform the old SILOR into SIOChCF, by radically reforming the older statutes. He became President of the new Society in 1993, and he always knew how to make meaningful contributions, and participated, until a few years ago, at all the Board of Director meetings with a commendable spirit of service.

Lastly, I would like to remember Piero as a person and recall his human qualities that always guaranteed him the esteem, respect and compassion of all colleagues and those who knew him. He had a special charisma and knew how to inspire immediate comradeship thanks to his excellent sense of humour and his ready taste for good natured jokes. This, however, was only the outward appearance of his character, and having known him for over 50 years, I can say that Piero was the most serious and balanced person I was fortunate enough to know. Few have had his absolute dedication to fundamental values such as intellectual honesty, dedication to family and work and a deep sense of friendship.

In recent years, unfortunately, he suffered greatly for the loss of his wife, Giuliana, after a long and destructive illness. This event marked him irreparably, and in my opinion, also had a decisive influence on his health. Piero was morally changed and unhappy, but in spite of that, up until the very end in the frequent phone calls that we had, he never forgot to share a handful of lively jokes and the joy for life that he once had. Today, unfortunately, there is only room for the happy memories.



Giorgio Sperati