

## 60<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Italian Society of Anatomy and Histology Pavia - 17 September 2006

In memory of Professors Enrico Reale and Carlo Grossi

dear President, dear Colleagues,

It is a sad and yet a heartfelt duty that I am fulfilling here, the one of celebrating with you the memory of our co-members recently departed.

I trust in your indulgent understanding if references will appear scant and comments cursory, considering, on the one hand, the difficulty of expressing in a few modest words adequate homage and on the other, the emotion prevailing over a wish to do justice to the bonds of close friendship that tie us to them.

Therefore, for Enrico Reale and for Carlo Grossi I shall only outline a short academic biography, while dwelling some more on the memories that remain in my mind of these two people who were not only colleagues, but friends with whom a deep relationship of mutual affection and estimation has been maintained through many years, nay decades.

For a natural chronological reason, I shall first remember Enrico Reale and then Carlo Grossi.

### *Enrico Reale*

I first met Enrico Reale – a honorary member of our Society since 1995 – in November 1950 when entering as Assistant the Institute of Anatomy of the University of Genoa, where he, as an intern, had already been for a few years an active and valuable collaborator of Prof. Ferdinando Rossi, then Director of the Institute.

It was just in that period that he started his research on the enzyme histochemistry of the human embryo, which brought the Genoese school in the forefront in Europe in that field.

After graduating in Medicine and Surgery he remained in the Institute, and continued to produce outstanding research work which enabled him to obtain important prizes (Graduation, Lepetit, Pilade Lachi, as well as grants from the CNR [the Italian National Research Council] and the “Genoa” Rotary Club) which led him first to Giessen, in 1958 and 1959, then to Lausanne, in 1960, where he worked with Otto Bucher. Later, in 1963, he moved to Duesseldorf, to the Institute that was then directed by Helmut Ruska, with whom he remained for five years and