
Editorial

This Special Issue of *Biophysical Chemistry* honors Professor Maurizio Brunori on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Maurizio was born in Rome, Italy, on May 8th, 1937. After graduating from the Medical School in Rome in 1961, he started a brilliant scientific career under the guidance of the pioneering Italian biochemist Alessandro Rossi-Fanelli and in close collaboration with Eraldo Antonini with whom Maurizio would share most of his early scientific achievements. After postdoctoral work in Gottingen with Manfred Eigen and in Urbana with Gregorio Weber, Maurizio returned to Italy where he moved swiftly through the academic ranks. He became full Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Rome in 1974, filling one of the most prestigious academic posts in Italy at only 37 years of age. Maurizio has remained at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' ever since and he is currently the Director of the Department of Biological Sciences 'Alessandro Rossi-Fanelli' and the Director of the Institute Pasteur 'Fondazione Cenci Bolognetti'.

Maurizio has made fundamental contributions to biochemistry and biophysics throughout his scientific career. The breadth of his interests and his remarkable insight were major driving forces behind the 'Renaissance' of Italian Biochemistry in the 1970s fostered by the 'School of Rome'. Maurizio has made landmark contributions to the study of heme proteins, ranging from myoglobin

and hemoglobin to the amazingly complex oxygen carrying proteins of arthropods. His work has led to the elucidation of fundamental mechanisms of function and regulation in heme proteins, of oxygen binding and cooperativity, and have regaled us with a quantitative understanding of the structural basis of the observed effects. Equally brilliant were his contributions to the elucidation of the mechanisms of electron transport in cytochrome *c* oxidase and the unraveling of molecular pathways of protein evolution using oxygen carriers as model systems. In all his discoveries, Maurizio has brought together deep insight, a masterful knowledge of every single technique in protein physical chemistry, and a remarkable ability to correlate structure with functional energetics and kinetics. His scientific curiosity has been highly contagious and has turned the Department of Biological Sciences in Rome into a most exciting environment for students and associates. Not surprisingly, some of the most successful Italian biochemists have trained under Maurizio and continue to treasure his scientific leadership and mentorship.

Maurizio's achievements are documented by over 600 peer-reviewed publications. Several of these publications and his 'Hemoglobin and Myoglobin' 1971 book with Antonini have been citation classics. Maurizio has been recognized nationally and internationally with the highest honors. Most notably, he was President of IUPAB from 1990 to 1993 and is currently a Member of the

prestigious Accademia dei Lincei, a member of the EMBO and a member of the Academia Europea. Maurizio has served on the editorial board of top-tier scientific journals, and has been instrumental to the scientific success of *Biophysical Chemistry* over the years.

In addition to being a very fine scientist, Maurizio has been a most valued friend and collaborator to those fortunate enough to interact with him. We honor Maurizio with enthusiasm and pride and look forward to the exciting developments of his brilliant research on protein structure, function and regulation for years to come.



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