

Obituary

Federico Spreafico

IT IS with great sorrow that friends, colleagues and pupils heard of the death of Federico Spreafico, M.D., caused by a heart attack on Saturday 19th February, 1994. I had the privilege of meeting Federico (Ico) in 1969 when he returned to Italy from a training period in the Laboratory of Immunology at the National Institute of Health (Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A.), and I immediately appreciated his far-spanning culture, his genuine interest in research and his constructively critical attitude in interpreting the results of his experiments. We worked very closely for 17 years, when he headed the Laboratory of Oncology and Immunology at the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research.

He played an important role as President of the Screening and Pharmacology Group of the EORTC in developing anticancer drugs in Europe and, in addition, he was among the founders of the Society of Immunopharmacology. He did pioneering work

in the early stages of recognising the role of immunological reactions in the effect of anticancer agents and in the control of cancer dissemination and metastases. In 1987 Ico left the Institute to take the important position of Chief of the Oncology Programme at Farmitalia Carlo Erba.

His contributions to science are summarised in over 200 scientific articles. Many young investigators had the good fortune of working with him and learning as post-doctoral fellows.

Those who knew him certainly remember his kindness and his generosity with sensitive advice and in reviewing papers. His sudden death is a huge loss not only for his friends but for Italian oncology as a whole.

Silvio Garattini
Milan, March 1994

News

Third International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes

THIS SYMPOSIUM is designed to provide a comprehensive review of the latest scientific advances in the causes, diagnosis and management of myelodysplastic syndromes. Topics for discussion will include classification, epidemiology, prognostic factors, cytogenetics and molecular biology, and treatments. It will be held on 1-5 October 1994 in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A. For more information, contact the Symposium Secretariat, 83 Hampshire Drive, Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536, U.S.A. Tel: (609) 730 1055; Fax (609) 730 1056. The deadline for abstracts is 1 July 1994.

Recent Developments in Immune Diagnosis and Therapy of Paraneoplastic Neurological Disease—A Satellite Meeting

As a satellite to the 4th Meeting of the International Society of Neuro-Immunology, the aforementioned symposium is being organised on 23 October 1994. For more information, contact

Dr J W B Moll, Daniel den Hoed Cancer Centre, PO Box 5201, 3008 AE Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Fax 31 10 4842008.

IKA/European Cancer Centre/EPGSS International Congress. Colorectal Cancer: From Gene to Cure

This congress will be held on 9-11 February 1995 at the Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For further information contact the European Cancer Centre, c/o AZVU, PO Box 7057, 1007 MB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. 31 20 644 4500/4550; Fax 31 20 644 4551.

The Seventh International Symposium on Platinum and Other Metal Compounds in Cancer Chemotherapy

This symposium, organised by the European Cancer Centre and NDDO, will be held on 1-4 March 1995 at Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For further information, contact the European Cancer Centre, c/o AZVU, PO Box 7057, 1007 MB Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. 31 20 644 4500/4550. Fax 31 20 644 4551.