

## Histochemistry for the research in veterinary science: the legacy of Giuseppe Aureli

**A. Lauria, M. Rizzotti**

Istituto di Anatomia degli Animali Domestici con Istologia ed Embriologia,  
Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

Twenty years ago, on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1984, Giuseppe Aureli, Founding Member and President of the Italian Society of Histochemistry from 1971 to 1973, Director of the Institute of Anatomy of Domestic Animals, Histology and Embryology and Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Milan, died suddenly and before his time.

Following in the footsteps of Carlo Bignardi, he started from the time he was a student, to deal with the research approaches of Maffo Vialli, founder of histochemistry in Italy

Head in Milan of a skilled group of scientists, he developed a sound and reliable research school mainly based on the use of ever more advanced histochemical and cytochemical techniques to study, in the extensive area of veterinary science, different problems aimed at developing either basic knowledge or animal production.

Starting from the idea that morphology is not static and cannot be limited to a sole description of structures, Aureli's originality was to consider histochemistry as a tool to serve wide biological problems and to start getting a deeper knowledge through interdisciplinary approaches. This resulted

in the achievement of excellent results as shown, for example, by his first biophysical and biochemical studies in co-operation with Zanotti and Castellani, respectively.

The interests of Aureli for histochemistry were not limited to research, but they were also actively pursued through his taking part in the life of the Italian Society of Histochemistry and promoting and supporting other valuable and efficient activities. In particular he spent much effort in reorganizing and launching the *Journal Rivista di Istochimica Normale e Patologica*, later renamed *Basic and Applied Histochemistry* and at present the *European Journal of Histochemistry*, cooperating — as a co-editor — in the development of a rigorous reviewing system of papers published entirely in English.

This issue of the *European Journal of Histochemistry* is aimed at honouring the memory of Giuseppe Aureli with four original papers from his School (by Modena *et al.*, Brevini *et al.*, Macca-trozzo *et al.*, Fabris *et al.*) and by other scientists (Germanà *et al.*, Pinuela *et al.*, Necchi *et al.*, Yasui *et al.*, De Santis *et al.*, Corriero *et al.*) who are following similar research approaches.