

## IN MEMORIAM

**ENZO OTTAVIANI**  
**Founder of ISJ-Invertebrate Survival Journal**  
**1945 - 2017**

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On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Professor Enzo Ottaviani, founder and Editor-in-chief of this journal, unexpectedly passed away at age 71. Many are his contributions and it would be unthinkable to try to remember them all.

As a comparative biologist, he provided provocative and fresh insights into where we came from as human beings. Among the questions he tried to find an answer to there are: Which is the origin of our unique nature and interaction with the environment that we are capable of? What does our system of integrated neuro-immune interactions have in common with simpler organisms where barriers among these systems do not exist?

These ancient questions have bewildered and often profoundly divided scientists for decades. During the last forty years, research performed by Enzo Ottaviani, provided significant insights to these

old questions, which led to an innovative comprehension of how basic immune, environmental and more recently, genetic factors interact to give rise to different outcomes in individuals. He was a pioneer in the study of equivalent behaviors and underlying functions in both simple as well as complex systems, and proposed that behavior may actually be sustained by processes that are more similar than different in diverse population, from the simplest to the more complex.

His early work was in the area of neuro-immune integration where he proposed that these systems were organized into structures innately present from birth and throughout evolution. His work brought him into contact with a wide range of scientists from all over the world, including immunologists, endocrinologists, evolutionists and biologists, all of whom passionately discussed his findings within their respective fields of competence.

In more recent years, Ottaviani turned his attention in particular to how his field of research might be linked to stress related disorders and inflammation, both because of their importance to human public health and as potential windows into the mechanisms that underlie human defense mechanisms and resistance to stress. In this context, I had the privilege of being the co-author of the last paper he published, a few days before he passed away.

A generous scientist, Ottaviani mentored many students and inspired them with his curiosity and appetite for science. He was loyal and supportive to his many friends and colleagues. He was also an excellent communicator and a fervent writer, author of many articles, expert reviews, and books that cover different levels of comprehension.

We will all miss him immensely because, without any doubt, he left a void that will be hard to fill, as a scientist, colleague, teacher, mentor and friend.

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