

MBC NEWS

IN MEMORY OF DOMENICO DIOGUARDI

When in November 1971 I first met Professor Domenico Dioguardi I could not imagine how much importance this meeting would have in my life.

I was still a student, looking for some guide to suggest to me what branch of surgery I should devote myself to prior to taking my degree in medicine and then in my life, and I was much struck by the enthusiasm that this Professor, until then unknown to me, displayed during his Reconstructive Plastic Surgery practical demonstrations, the first to be held in the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at Bari University as part of the course in General Surgery. The experience was electrifying.

Such things may often happen in one's life, but in this particular case I can say that this man decided my future for me.

Domenico Dioguardi – for me he was always “Professor Dioguardi” – was born in Bari on 7 May 1933. He graduated in Medicine and Surgery at Bari University in July 1957 and took his specialization in General Surgery and his professional qualifying examination in Pathological Surgery and Clinical Surgery at the University of Bari.

In 1966, Prof. Alberto De Blasi, then Director of Clinical Surgery at the University of Bari, sent him to the Institute of Plastic Surgery of Milan University, directed by Prof. Guido Radici, in order to obtain his specialization in this branch of surgery.

In this Institute, he was first of all Registrar and then Medical Assistant, before taking his specialization in Plastic Surgery.

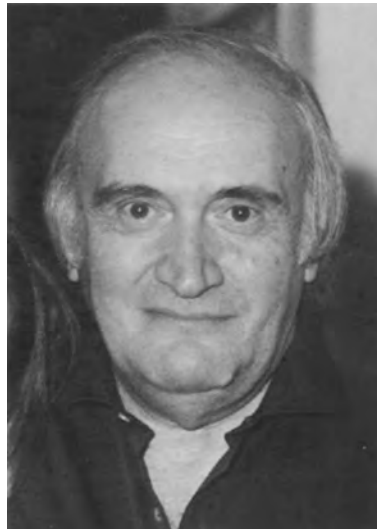
But his desire to work and to learn as much as possible about this discipline, in order to be able to return to Bari with as much technical experience as possible for the ‘mission’ that had been entrusted to him, also prompted him to attend various centres of Plastic Surgery and Burns Centres abroad.

He widened his studies on malformations and burns treatment at the Department of Plastic Surgery, Green Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, London.

He extended his knowledge of traumatology and surgery of the hand and peripheral nerve trunks at the Institute of Plastic Surgery of the University of Vienna, directed by Prof. Hanno Millesi.

He further perfected his knowledge of malformation surgery and cosmetic surgery at the Institute of Plastic Surgery of the St. Louis Hospital in Paris, directed by Prof. Dufourmentel. He then attended the Institute of Plastic Surgery of the Hand at Lausanne University Polyclinic directed by Prof. Verdin, and perfected his skills in hand surgery.

On his return to Bari in 1971, he was appointed Professor of



Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Bari and in 1980, having become Full Professor, he was appointed Director of the Department of Plastic Surgery and Burns Centre and of the Specialization School in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, at the University of Bari.

This is the background to his career which professionally established itself with scientific and professional achievements obtained after great sacrifices, supreme commitment and dedication.

His intense activity expressed itself with great competence in various fields of clinical medicine, teaching and research, covering all the most important aspects of Plastic Surgery, as testified by his numerous scientific papers – more than 300 – published in national and international journals and by a large number of monographs (for example on bone grafts), and chapters in various textbooks.

But Memeto, as his oldest and closest friends called him, did not show his value only on a professional level. Those who knew him well are well aware that he breathed the “university culture” which he had first found at home (his father, my friendship with whom always honoured me during his lifetime, was an authoritative and respected general surgeon), a “university culture” that enabled him to act at all times in the most correct of fashions, with varying degrees of rigour according to circumstances but always decisively and determinedly, with all people and on all occasions.

Today Memeto is no longer with us. He left us on 11 February 2013.

As his devoted pupil and the direct heir of his academic and professional figure, it is my sad duty to perform the sad task of making the announcement to those unaware of it in this heartfelt personal salutation.

I had the honour and pleasure of being close to him and working with him and for him since the early days when he returned to Bari. The various periods of training in Europe and the many years in Milan greatly influenced his training. Professor Dioguardi devoted great energy to the dissemination of the discipline of Plastic Surgery. Possessing an innate sensitivity and profound respect for human values, Professor Dioguardi was for me a grand master of life and of surgery. I was bound to him – and this I can say with great pride – by a true sense of friendship, which together with my wife we shared with Maria, his exceptional and incomparable wife, whose sorrow we feel today.

Farewell Memeto.

Michele Pascone