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The Role of Emeriti: Maintaining the Link with Universities and Europe

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Natale G. De Santo

In the introduction to *Little Science Big Science* (1963) Derek de Solla Price analysed what was 'Big Science' in comparison with the former state of 'Little Science' (Figure 1).

"Because the science we have now so vastly exceeds all that has gone before, the national expenditures of manpower and money on

it have suddenly made science a major segment of our national economy. The large-scale character of modern science, new and shining and all-powerful, is so apparent that the happy term "Big Science" has been coined to describe it. Big Science is so new that many of us can remember its beginnings. Big Science is so large that many of us begin to worry about the sheer mass of the monster we have created. Big Science is so different from the former state of affairs that we can look back, perhaps nostalgically, at the Little Science that was once our way of life".

In the Prologue he stated something relevant to retired professors. "We can say that 80 to 90 percent of all the scientists that have ever lived are alive now. Alternatively, any young scientist, starting now and looking back at the end of his career upon a normal life span, will find that 80 to 90 percent of all scientific work achieved by the end of the period will have taken place before his very eyes, and that only 10 to 20 percent will antedate his experience". That is to say that retired scientists are ambulant gigantic libraries and they are living witnesses of the What happened before their advent in science is not critical for further development.

Terence Kealy reviewing the fate of the book for *Nature* (1000; 406:279) noticed that "Price showed, science demonstrates diminishing returns. The rate of scientific growth is about twice that of economic growth, which means that you have to do four times as much science to get twice as rich. One day, as science's exponential demands on national incomes become excessive, the rates of scientific - and therefore economic growth - will slow".

Now, at the time of Covid-19, we fear that in a poorer and vulnerable world Big Science might decline or come to an end. University rectors worldwide foresee a decline

in the number of students registering at universities and although the investment in science might not decline, it will be mainly directed to finding a solution to the question of life and death imposed by the virus. History, however supports the idea that humankind will be able to find solutions.

Bibliometrics for Sociology of Science

Derek J. de Solla Price

Science since Babylon (1961)

Little Science - Big Science (1963)



Price, D. J. d. S. (1961). *Science since Babylon*. New Haven/London: Yale University Press.

Price, D. J. d. S. (1963). *Little Science, Big Science*. New York: Columbia University Press.

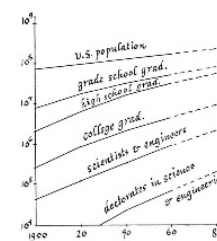


Fig. 2. GROWTH OF SCIENTIFIC MANPOWER AND OF GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OF THE UNITED STATES

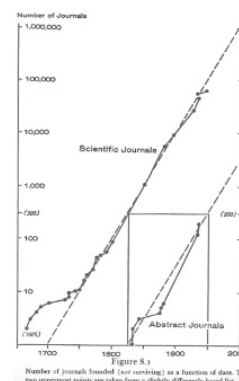


FIGURE 3.1

Number of journals founded (not surviving) as a function of date. The two approximate points are taken from a slightly differently based list.

Figure 1

Coming back to those ambulant libraries, we know that the majority of universities nominate emeriti and have rules for awarding the title. However, there are discrepancies between what is allowed by law and what emeriti achieve individually. That is to say that emeriti receive by practice - not by law - benefits that are in excess of those granted by university constitutions. This indicates that the personal charisma of emeriti matters.

"In France the title is conferred by the Administrative Council for 1-5 years and may be renewed based on productivity. They may direct seminars, dissertations, participate in the examination committees. The main goal of the emeritus status is to allow professors to continue to coordinate and drive to an end all dissertations they have been assigned to. They are considered volunteers, working at no cost to the state - "Ils sont considérés comme des collaborateurs bénévoles du service public" - thus a status of professors emeriti is not taken into consideration" (1, 2).

1. Réponse du Ministère de l'éducation nationale, de l'enseignement supérieur et de la recherche, Publiée dans le JO (Journal Officiel) Sénat du 12/10/2006 - p.2608.

2. De Santo NG. Créativité et découvertes scientifiques après 65 ans. *Science, Art et Vieillesse Bull. Acad. Natle Méd.*, 2017, 201, nos 7-9, 1335-1347, séance du 10 octobre 2017 1346.

In Germany the title was cancelled by national law in 1976. However retired professors have a number of academic rights such as teaching (*venia legendi*) and participation in examinations and research. But all depends on the successor to their chair and/or on the relevant faculty, but this happens rarely (3). Recently the retirement age was increased by 2-3 years and, more importantly, a number of states and institutions have programmes for 'emeriti of Excellence' without age limits in *order to preserve the National Capital of Age* (2) in the country that is ranked fifth in the *World Figures of the Economist* for aged countries in 2019.

Recent data showed that in the departments of medicine of 99 universities of high, medium and low economy countries, emeriti and retired professor could (i) apply and receive donations in 42.5%; (ii) they were allowed to keep their offices (57.6%); (iii) and a laboratory with full email, and telephone/fax facilities (41.4%); (iv) parking was allowed in 7.1%; (v) in 35% of the universities emeriti participated in departmental meetings but right to vote was allowed in a few cases; (vi) in 30% teaching (face to face, tutorials, seminars) was allowed in normal as well as in Ph. D and Masters courses ; (vii) in 41.2%, emeriti continued to do research and had published at least one impact factor paper or one book in the previous 12 months--many had produced more than 7 items, a few more than 10 (4).

The European Pediatric Association in 2016 (5,6) studied the contribution of retired and emeriti paediatricians to the activities of postgraduate schools of paediatrics in 28 European countries. The inquiry answered two questions: 1. Is the older generation of paediatric professors (emeriti) an under-utilised resource that could mitigate the present problems of child health care services in Europe? 2. Could retired paediatric professors thereby serve as a stand-by option in countries with a crisis in child health care services?

The study was made in 18 of the 28 European Union (EU) countries; 8 East European countries, including Russia and Turkey, plus Israel and Switzerland. The questionnaires were answered mainly by presidents of national paediatric societies. The results of the analysis on rights and duties of an emeritus were very heterogeneous from country to country; and within countries, from university to university. A total of 24 of the 28 countries had fixed ages for

retirement (10 countries at 65 years, 7 at 67 or 68 years, 7 at 70 years). Four countries had a flexible age limit with the option for females to stop working at the earliest at 55 years and for males at 60 years. Five of 28 countries did not establish the status of emeritus in their university.

The results led to the conclusion that emeriti were not well integrated into the academic life of half of the 28 European countries studied. There was a trend for retired professors to be more often involved in postgraduate, rather than undergraduate teaching. Thirteen of 28 countries reported that a wide range, 10-80%, of retired professors were still active in research. Of the 28 countries, 11 reported that retired professors were still active in clinical care. More important was the conclusion of the study which pointed out that professors of paediatrics emeriti, and retired, should be seen as a reserve of competence to be utilised for practising paediatrics in those countries where such services do not exist (5, 6).

It was hypothesised - following the suggestion of J.G. Hall (*Pediatr Res* 2005;57:9) - that medical faculties should develop career pathways for senior academic paediatricians and that the Council of Europe and the European Commission should start an initiative empowering emeriti in paediatrics in Europe to act as promoters for the well-being of children (5, 6).

The EU respects senior scientists and allows a retired scientist to act as principal or co-principal investigators in projects eligible for funding. Thus it protects the Capital of Age. However the EU requests that applicants - retired and/or emeriti - get the endorsement from their universities (personal communication from Emerita Maria Th. Ochsenkühn-Petropoulou, Athens).

Therefore EAPE should have a dual action directed to universities and to Cultural and Social EU Commissions that may help to foster the link with science and teaching as well to start actions of the so called third sector. We also hope that in Europe the wind against compulsory retirement might start blowing from USA to Europe, thus ending the sort of discrimination described by Marta C Nussbaum (*Aging Thoughtfully*, NY, 2017).

The pandemic, so far, promotes Big Science, as expected, towards production of vaccines and new cures for Covid-19. But it tells us that our vision of merit prevents those from poor classes from participating (Michael J. Sande: *Are we all in this together? The pandemic has helpfully scrambled how we value everyone's economic and social value*, NY Times, April 13, 2020).

3. Uferman B. Handbuch- Emeritierung und Pensionierung. 3 Auflage. Bonn, Deutscher Hochschuleverband 2012.

4. De Santo NG, Altucci P, Heidland A, Stein G, Cameron JS, and Rutkowski B. The role of emeriti and retired professors in medicine. *Q J Med* 2014; 107: 405-407.

5. Ehrich J, Nwaneri N, and De Santo NG. The role of Retired Pediatric Professors in European Child Health Care Services. *J Peds* 2017; 181:332-333, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2016.10.055>

6. Ehrich J, Nwaneri N, and De Santo NG. Falling back to experience: retired paediatric professors as a solution to Europe's child health care crisis? *J Gerontol Geriatrics* 2017;65: 318-324.



Young or Old but Always Professors

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Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to share some ideas with my friends and colleagues of the *European Association of Professors Emeriti*. We are all familiar with the rather gloomy adage from Terence 'senectus ipsa morbus' and, as we age, we are all too alert to the harsh psychological and physiological realities that

make «senility an illness in itself» but, as academics, we cannot but further wonder if our scientific capacities and our abilities to share knowledge are not affected by our age. The core competencies of professors are those of adding new and original contributions to our chosen disciplines and to imparting knowledge to a new generation of scholars. We are obliged to ask if age is a help or a hindrance in the performance of these tasks.

Are we better investigators, as we become older? Are novel discoveries more likely to be produced when a researcher has at his or her disposal all the tools that only years of study provide, or does a fresh and young mind provide a clear advantage in the task of investigation? Are we better teachers, as we become older? Is the wisdom that comes with old age an asset in teaching young minds the notions we have accumulated and discovered throughout the years? I realize these issues are at the heart of many discussions on public policies about mandatory retirement for educators, which I do not wish to address here. My intention, rather, is to stimulate our own reflection and to promote a critical, but not defensive, self-awareness of the professional gains and losses that accompany age.

Let's start with scientific production. There is one field of research in which youth seems to confer a distinct advantage. This field is mathematics, where the highest levels of achievement are celebrated with the awarding of the Charles Fields Medal which can be conferred only on mathematicians under the age of forty. This condition recognizes that almost all the major breakthroughs in mathematics were accomplished by researchers in their twenties or thirties. Both Isaac Newton and Gottfried

Leibniz had completed, independently, their pioneering work on infinitesimal calculus by the time they were forty. Leonard Euler, who published his proof that only the five Plato-solids are both regular and convex, is usually seen as the exception which proves the rule. Personally, I have my doubts about extending the validity of this observation to other areas, since mathematics, as Bertrand Russell wittingly noted, is a formal area of knowledge to the point of being conceived simply as «symbol logic».

In other contexts, it is hard to generalize: one can hardly argue that age played a specific role in Fleming's ability to notice the effect of mold on his petri dishes in discovering penicillin and one can hardly avoid the conclusion that Pasteur would have never discovered pasteurization in 1861, had he not had the experience of working on beer fermentation in 1854. There are, however, disciplines where age and experience are clearly helpful: in philology, experience and the accumulation of knowledge are required in order to integrate and digest the necessary information that can prevent the formulation of hypotheses and connections which could be confuted solely on the basis by raw data.

Where the transmission of knowledge is concerned old age can sometimes be seen as an advantage but, interestingly, the same could be said for youth. Undoubtedly, even at the level of personal experience, we all have fond memories of older professors who have changed our lives. They did so because the knowledge we received from them was formulated in categories that were so clear and sharp that it formed our way of thinking and even our persons. Still, we can all remember the days when we were able to communicate to our students a thirst for knowledge emanating from the vigour, passion and energy that only youth sustains.

Are we therefore locked inside the trap expressed by the classic French proverb "*si jeunesse savait, si vieillesse pouvait*"? Not necessarily. The word "professor" comes from the Latin verb *profiteor*, to profess, which in theology is associated with the "profession of faith" and the formal public commitment of the religious. It implies a willingness to speak forth and to stand for certain values and principles. This is a life-long commitment which is not diminished by age. To put oneself in service of knowledge

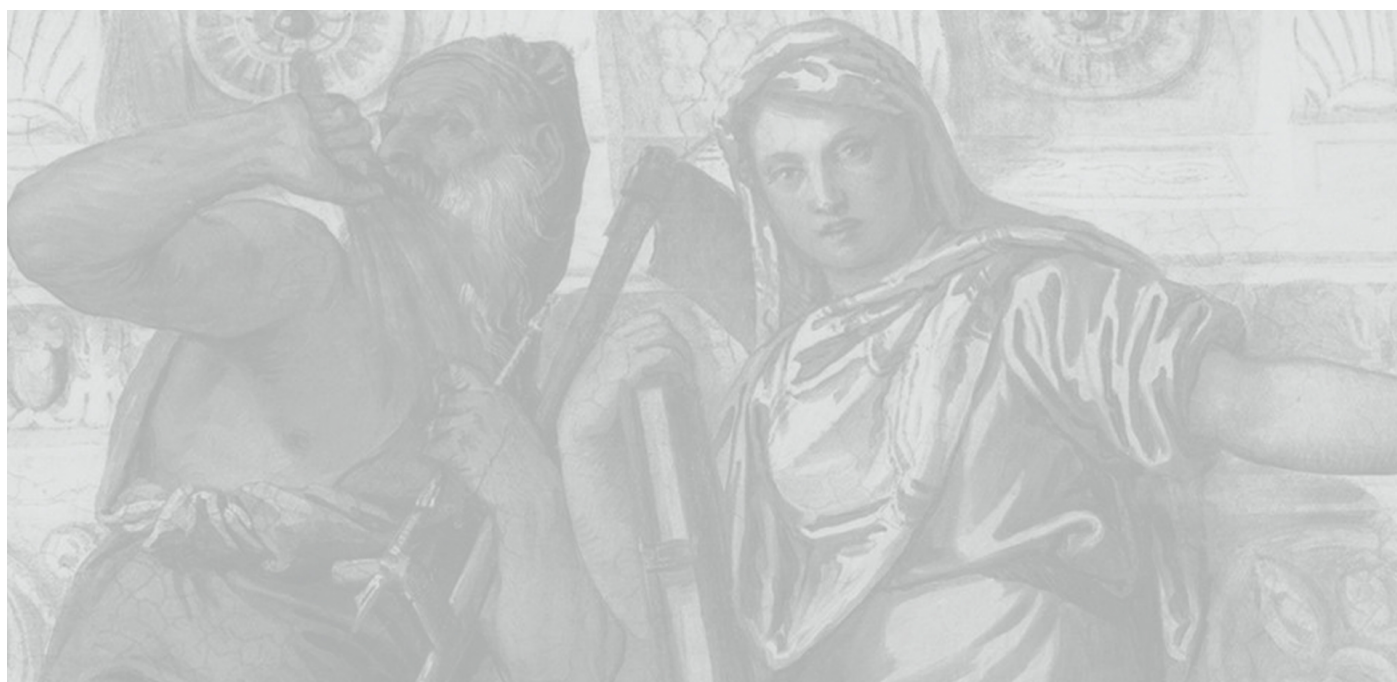
and education is a life-long calling where time itself is often the best teacher. This is why, in classical cultures, wisdom from experience was revered at the expense of the cockiness of youth. This perception may seem counter-cultural in a world where the emphasis is placed on novelty and increasingly disruption is seen as a value. It would be foolish, however, to jettison the accumulated and often hard-won wisdom and traditions that have been passed on by previous generations. The greatest of scientists have always acknowledged their dependence on their predecessors. Newton insisted: *«If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants»*.

It could be that a fundamental mistake is that of conceiving older and younger professors as competitors; a mistake rooted in an understanding of science and research as overly individualistic pursuits. John Henry Newman always insisted that universities should not be seen merely as places where individuals pursue their own research but as communities of learning where both personal encounters and exposure to a range of disciplines were necessary to foster a true spirit of education. In his work *The Idea of the University* (1852 and 1858) he was more willing to countenance the abolition of lectures and examinations than the requirement of a shared residence. True learning, he argued, *«never will issue from the most strenuous efforts of a set of teachers, with no mutual sympathies and no inter-communion, of a set of examiners with no opinions which they dare profess, and with no common principles, who are teaching or questioning a set of youths who do not know them, and do not know each other, on a large number of subjects, different in kind, and connected by no wide philosophy»*.

I devoted most of my life to the Scriptures and, in the course of my studies, also dealt with the figures of the grandparents in the Old and New Testament (1). There is no doubt that in the Bible the perception of grandparents and of ancestors in general is largely dependent on the biases typical of a patriarchal society, but the latter preconception, in and of itself, conceals a vision which is much more refined than we may realize. The elderly – both men and women (2)– are seen as the depository of a treasure of such value that it has to be handed over, cost what may. Young generations, in turn, claim their coming to adulthood, in so far as they are able to appreciate the wealth enshrined in that treasure, and make it theirs thanks to older generations, which despite their limits and fragility, embodied objective values which transcend their subjective persons (3). To go back to Terence, it would be fair to say that professors, young but especially old, embody, beyond their scientific achievements and teaching abilities, the fundamental anthropological connection of humanity to knowledge – *homo sum, humani nihil a me alienum puto* (4)–: *«I am human and I think nothing human is alien to me»*.



1. Gianfranco Ravasi, *Il cuore sapiente dei nonni*, in «Jesus» 31 (2009), n. 2, pp. 104-107.
2. Cfr. 2 Timothy 1, 5.
3. Cfr. Sirach 25, 2; 42, 8.
4. Publius Terentius Afer, *Heautontimorumenos*, Act I, Scene 1, v. 77.



Advantage Ageing

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Garabed Eknoyan

While housebound during the coronavirus pandemic and working on a manuscript I consulted for a reference “The Great Doctors” by the eminent historian of medicine Henry Sigerist (1891-1957) (1). In leafing through it, I was struck by his statement in the Preface on the fate of forgotten anonymous contributors to

the progress of medicine who had actually contributed to the building of its scientific edifice: “But history has forgotten them. They lived their allotted span, and then they died.”(1) Essentially, the very same fate of the ‘great doctors’ selected by Sigerist. The thought crossed my mind whether the “life span” an investigator lives had anything to do with the achieved fame of Sigerist’s selected ‘great doctors’.

Background

Studies of age and scientific notoriety have a heritage that dates back to the late 19th century; they were boosted in the mid-1950s and have flourished since then.(2, 3) The most consistent finding of performance in the sciences in general and medicine in particular has been a curvilinear line of productivity that peaks at midlife and gradually declines thereafter. Importantly, recent studies show considerable variations across individuals and over time whereby some remain productive well past midlife, but the overall pattern of a bell-shaped curve of productivity remains unchanged (3).

As for ‘life span’, data on the distant past is scarce at best. Available information shows a decline in mortality with a rise in life expectancy that began in the 17th century from about 35 to 40 years of age until the 19th century, when significant medical advances, initially in public health

then in therapy and interventional medicine, have led to consistent increments in life expectancy up to the age of 80+ in the 21st century (4, 5).

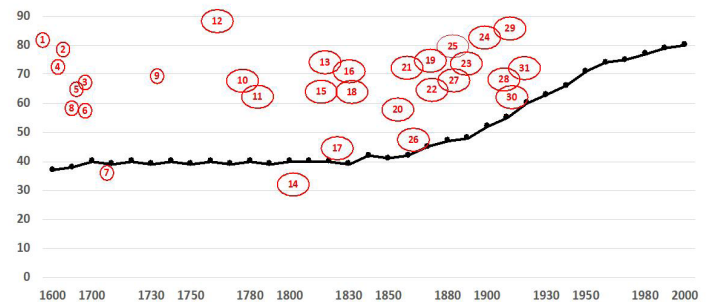


Figure 1

Age at death of 31 ‘Great Doctors’ (shown in red circles) selected by Henri Sigerist (Reference 1) plotted against the average life expectancy of their time shown in the heavy black line (data from reference 3). The number in each circle indicates the following individuals:

1. Ambroise Paré (1510-1590); 2. William Harvey (1578-1657); 3. Marcello Malpighi (1628-1694); 4. Santorio Santorio (1561-1636); 5. Jan Baptista van Helmont (1577-1644); 6. Franz de le Boë (1614-1672); 7. Giorgio Baglivi (1668-1707); 8. Thomas Sydenham (1624-1689); 9. Herman Boerhaave (1668-1738); 10. Albrecht von Haller (1708-1777); 11. John Hunter (1728-1793); 12. Giovanni Battista Morgagni (1682-1771); 13. Edward Jenner (1749-1823); 14. Xavier Bichat (1771-1802); 15. Jean Nicolas Corvisart (1775-1821); 16. Philippe Pinel (1755-1826); 17. René Laennec (1781-1826); 18. Joseph Broussais (1772-1838); 19. Karl Rokitansky (1804-1878); 20. Johannes Müller (1801-1858); 21. Johann Schönlein (1793-1864); 22. Claude Bernard (1813-1878); 23. Hermann Helmholtz (1821-1894); 24. Rudolph Virchow (1821-1902); 25. Jakob Henle (1809-1885); 26. Ignaz Semmelweis (1818-1865); 27. Louis Pasteur (1822-1895); 28. Robert Koch (1843-1910); 29. Joseph Lister (1827-1912); 30. Paul Ehrlich (1854-1915); 31. William Osler (1849-1919).

Results

It is on this background that I tried to look at the ‘great doctors’ of Sigerist. The book lists 56 great doctors, beginning with Imhotep and Aesculapius and ending with William Osler (1849-1919) (1). The age of the first nine listed doctors is unknown. The next eight lived before there was accurate data on life expectancy. Of the remaining 39, I selected 31 individuals I was familiar with and plotted their age at death on a graph of life expectancy since the 17th century of humans in the West, where all 31 were from. Figure 1 shows that the majority of ‘great doctors’ lived almost two decades longer than what was normal for

1. Sigerist H. *The Great Doctors. A Biographical History of Medicine*. New York, W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. 1933

2. Jones B, Reedy EJ, Weinberg BA. Age and scientific genius (2014). Available at: nber.org/papers/w19866

3. Bonavita V, Chieffi G, Cokkinos DV, De Santo ND, et al. *The Human Capital of Age*. Napoli, Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Filosofici. 2017

4. Anon. How has life expectancy changed over time. Available at: digitalcontent@ons.gov.uk

5. Livi-Bacci M. *A Concise History of World Population*. 6th edition. John Wiley & Sons Ltd. 2017

their times. Two who lived less were the Armenian-Italian physician Giorgio Baglivi (1668-1707) and the noted French pathologist Xavier Bichat (1717-1802), numbers 7 and 14 respectively in figure 1.

Prompted by these observations that end in early 20th century, I decided to explore the question further into the 21st century by examining the age at death of Nobel laureates in Physiology or Medicine (6). The results are shown in Figure 2. A total of 118 recipients from 1900 to 1976 are plotted. The reason to stop at 1976 was that 2 out of the average 3 annual recipients since 1977 are still alive, and plotting the few who died could affect the results. Once again, the results show that most recipients lived two decades or longer than the general population. A third (33%) were octogenarians, over a fifth (22.8%) were nonagenarians, there were no centenarians. The longest survivor was the Swiss chemist Tadeus Reichstein (1897-1996) who died at age 99. His 1950 Nobel Prize was for "discoveries concerning hormones of the adrenal cortex". Only 15.2% of laureates lived below the normal life expectancy of their times. The shortest survivor was the Danish physician Niels Ryberg Fursen (1860-1904) who died at age 43. His 1903 Nobel Prize was for the "application of light to the treatment of skin diseases".

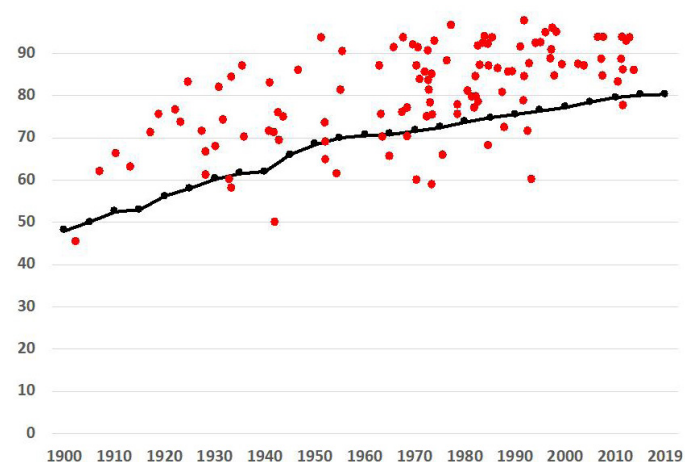


Figure 2
Age at death of 118 Nobel laureates in Physiology or Medicine (shown in red dots) from Reference 8. Plotted against the average life expectancy of their time shown in the heavy black line, data from reference 3.

6. Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. Winners of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. Available at: Britannica.com

Discussion

Could these observations indicate a somatic advantage in achievers of medical notoriety? I do not know. The question deserves closer scrutiny and I will defer the answer to others with expertise in such issues.

What actually prompted me to explore the question was the Preface of Sigerist that touched a personal note in my own life's work, but is equally applicable to all emeriti. The now, well-documented statement of Sigerist that a good number of investigators, a few as talented as the Nobel laureates but many others not, have actually contributed much to the advancement of their discipline; but not having been rewarded with the Nobel prize or some such selective distinction are forgotten. Of course, every rule has its exceptions and the fact is that some investigators who have not received a Nobel prize have contributed as much to the progress of science, and in a few instances even more, than most Nobel laureates. One such example is Ernest H. Starling (1866-1927) who was twice denied the Nobel Prize, in 1913 and 1926, but has contributed more and is better remembered than most Nobel recipients.

Nevertheless, such exceptions notwithstanding, the fact is that over time most contributors to science will join those Sigerist characterizes as, *"But history has forgotten them. They lived their allotted span, and then they died."* With great humility and no arrogance whatsoever, that can be said to be true of most current emeriti, be they members of the European Association of Professors Emeriti or not. They have the distinction of sharing with the 'great doctors' and Nobel laureates some somatic trait of longevity but are less, or even unlikely, to be remembered in times to come.

Conclusion

It is good to have a long and productive life. As emeriti we are lucky to have achieved that distinction and have much to be proud of. Our remaining years are best spent savouring our personal achievements, whatever they may have been, rather than mourning missed opportunities for deserved prizes, rewards or acknowledgments.



Never Give Up the Truth

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Prof. Emer. Lucija Čok

Boris Pahor was born in 1913 in Trieste, where he still lives, meditates and writes. As a Slovene novelist he is best known for his heartfelt descriptions of the life of the Slovenian minority in the pre-Second World War period, fascist Italy, and as a Nazi concentration camp survivor. His works evoke, among other things, the atrocities of the four

concentration camps in which he was held during WW2. Following Dachau he was relocated three more times: to Mittelbau-Dora, Harzungen and finally to Bergen-Belsen, from where he was liberated on 15 April 1945. His macabre experiences during his concentration camp years provided the material for the novel *Necropolis* (1967) and, in part, for the novel *A Difficult Spring* (1978). These two novels reveal that the fascist violence in Trieste and the well-systematised Nazi death factories had the same monstrous face. In his masterpiece *Necropolis* he visits Natzweiler-Struthof camp twenty years after his relocation to Dachau.

His literary success came in the late nineties, after years of constant writing, probably intentionally overlooked by his homeland until Slovenia had gained its independence. He has published mostly in Slovenian; Italy recognised him very late. It was only in 2008 that Pahor appeared on the map of the great Trieste authors, such as Claudio Magris, Italo Svevo and Umberto Saba. *Necropolis* was published in Italian in 1997. The early translation into English from Slovenian, in 1995, was titled *Pilgrim among the Shadows*, and the next in 2010, *Necropolis*. *Necropolis* has been translated into several languages, even Esperanto. Five hundred and sixty of his works are registered in publication bases; there are 1,056 publications in 13 languages. The genres in which he has worked include biography, personal narrative, Slovenian history, autobiography, personal correspondence, and diary. Among the author's most distinguished works are: *Mesto v zalivu* (*The City in the Bay*, 1955), *Vila ob jezeru* (*The Villa by the Lake*,

1955), *Kres v pristanu* (*The Bonfire in the Quay*, 1959), *Parnik trobi nji* (*A Steamboat Blows to Her*, 1964), *Nekropola* (1967), *Zatemnitev* (*Twilight*, 1975), *Spopad s pomladjo* (*A Difficult Spring*, 1978), *V labirintu* (*In the Labyrinth*, 1984), *Dihanje morja* (*The Breathing of the Sea*, 2001), and the autobiography *Moje suhote in njihovi ljudje* (*My Sanctuaries and Their People*, 2008). Pahor's latest testimonial novel *Knjiga o Radi* (2012), written in diary form and dedicated to his wife, attracted public attention.

Pahor is a prominent public figure in the Slovenian minority in Italy. He was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French government, the Cross of Honour for Science and Art by the Austrian government, and was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature by the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Due to the authority of his voice and the value of his literary output he is currently a member of the Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts of Slovenia, and Vice-President of the International Association for the Defence of Minority Languages and Cultures.

Pahor has dedicated his life to warning of the pitfalls of totalitarian regimes and to promoting confidence based on a good knowledge of history and one's own identity. His actions in the post-WW2 period, defending the Slovenian minority in Italy, were rewarded with years of isolation; years in which

he became *persona non grata* in Slovenia and his works were not taken into account by critics. These works were criticised sometimes by right wing politicians, at other times by the left wing; finally both applauded him, mostly for his literary work and his mission springing from such work. "My literature has always been interested in the simple stories of poor people. My poetry is, and will remain, the impatience with the lack of freedom. I've always been a non-aligned man. That is why I have never received much sympathy, either from one side or the other."

As a witness of fascist violence against Slovenians, at his public readings, where a discussion follows, he talks

about fascism, what it has done in the past and about its new appearances. Its many crimes have often been covered up. It was preferred that the truth should never be told about what the fascists did to the Slovenian minority in Trieste, denying everything to them: language, culture, identity. "We need to talk about it that it never be repeated!" he says.



Boris Pahor



Boris Pahor and Lucija Čok

A strong advocate of Slovenian identity and language did gain appreciation among Slovenians. Today not only Slovenian readers embrace him, but also foreign literary circles accept him with open arms. In 1986, in Paris, on the occasion of the exhibition *Trouver Trieste* at the Centre Pompidou, the author met the philosopher Evgen Bavčar who introduced him to his first French publisher. The masterpiece *Necropolis* thus began its ascent. In 2001 Germany included it in the famous *SWR-Bestenliste*, the prestigious list of the twelve most beautiful books published in that year. The Parisian publishers Phébus and Le Rocher have published much of his work. In France he frequently participates in symposia and public readings. Today the writer, awarded many prestigious national and European awards, is considered the author of classic twentieth-century literature.

He supported the integration of Slovenia into the European Union in 2004, but he considers the globalisation processes and the integration of Slovenians into any kind of political union to be risky. From the past Slovenians gained wisdom and vigour. Regarding the question concerning what Slovenians should add to EU strategies and policies he reacted: *"First of all, the example of how one can remain true to one's identity without armies, without generals and without admirals. An identity that is sufficient in culture. And this the Slovenians learned to do by surviving, in history they have always been suppressed, several foreigners tried to absorb them, to enslave them."*

The 106-year-old man who endured the First World War, the Spanish flu, the Second World War, four camps and three totalitarian regimes, now survives the coronavirus epidemic and communicates to Slovenians: *"Stay home, read books, Slovenian and world classics, forget about egoism and follow Christ who said we should take care of each other."*

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Georgios Babiniotis: The Renowned Greek Linguist

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Prof. Emer. Stella Priovolou

Georgios Babiniotis, Emeritus and Honorary Professor of Linguistics at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, is a tireless linguist with multifarious activities to his credit, distinguished both in Greece and abroad.

He was the one to introduce Modern Linguistics into the University of Athens and, through the thousands

of students that he taught during an impressive career spanning more than four decades, he has considerably influenced the evolution of language science in Greece, both in the academic field and in the sector of education. What greatly contributed to this was his broader communication with speakers of Greek through language programmes in the media and articles on language in the Press, public appearances and lectures, classes at the Free University of the Books' Archway (Stoa tou Vivliou), and, mainly, with his nine dictionaries of the Greek language and his comprehensive Modern Greek Grammar, along with the rest of his published works (20 books, more than 150 studies and scientific articles and numerous articles on language

and education). Even after retirement he still retains his youthful enthusiasm and energy, as proved by his recent works including *Modern School Grammar for All* (1), *The Greek Alphabet, Alphabet-Writing-Orthography* (2), and *Our Language: 180 Texts on Language* (3). Regarding his latest book, he has declared: *"I believe that anyone who loves language and wishes to know its essence from many aspects and in greater depth, anyone who wishes to enter the 'magical' world of language and the paths of Linguistics without any special prerequisite knowledge, anyone who believes that mastering language in all its dimensions is not mere additional knowledge but the shortest way connecting us to thought, will appreciate better the texts and the goal of this book"*.

Georgios Babiniotis has consciously devoted his entire career and all his efforts to two fields: language and education. He has been president of the Arsakeia-Tositseia Schools for years, has conducted the National Dialogue on Education, headed the Greek Pedagogical Institute, promoted Greek culture as President of the Hellenic Foundation for Culture, and served as Rector of the University of Athens for two consecutive terms and as extra-parliamentary Minister for Education and Religious Affairs.

He has repeatedly been honoured for his work and his contribution to science both in Greece and abroad and was recently awarded the Outstanding Contribution to the Republic of Cyprus medal by President Nicos Anastasiades. The honorary titles and distinctions awarded to Georgios Babiniotis so far include the following:

- Honorary Professor of the University of Athens (the highest honour conferred by the University Senate to distinguished active or emeriti professors, following a proposal made by their Department).
- Honorary Doctor of "La Trobe" University of Melbourne, Australia, and of the University of Montreal, Canada.
- Herder Award
- Officer of the Order of Academic Palms (Ordre des Palmes Académiques) of the French State.
- Golden Cross of the Russian Federation.
- Medal of the Church of Greece – Golden Cross of Paul the Apostle.
- Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit (Orden del Mérito

Civil) of the Spanish State.

- Archon Teacher of the Nation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

An interview given by Georgios Babiniotis to the journalist Myrto Loverdou in 2018 on the occasion of the publication of *"Modern School Grammar for All"* reveals his multifaceted personality and his connection not only with language but also with "paideia" (rearing, training and teaching), and his strong bonds not only with the society of students but also with the Greek society in general. *"I identify myself with the two pillars to which I have devoted all my work: language and education," said the professor. "I always remember the great scholar Adamantios Korais, who associated education with language."*



Georgios Babiniotis

Babiniotis points out that education is a precondition of paideia; the latter is something much broader, it is everything we have read and heard and, most of all, it is self-education. The worst thing of all is to think that your relationship with language is over once you graduate from school. If you don't have inside you an inclination to lead yourself to constant spiritual alertness, to read, to listen, to question, to discuss, if you do none of these, then you have already died but you have not realised it yet.

As regards the publication of his *Grammar*, he confesses: *"I yearned to write a school grammar that would help children learn the logic of language. As a scientist, what I feel about words is that 'they are all my children'. Some words may express me better, others may enchant me with their etymology, which could be a real revelation, or I may be likewise fascinated by a newly discovered syntactic structure."*

Ever since he was a child, Georgios Babiniotis wanted to become a philologist and showed particular sensitivity to language before he even knew Linguistics as a science. As a professor he never believed that his role was to work enclosed in an office. He appeared on television with reporters in the shows *"Do You Speak Greek?"* («Ομιλείτε Ελληνικά;»), *"The Language Given to Me Was Greek"* («Τη γλώσσα μού έδωσαν ελληνική»), and *"The Words are to Blame"* («Οι λέξεις φταίνε»), had a daily radio programme on Vima FM (2015-2017) and today is still carrying on with the television show *"3 Minutes for the Greek Language"* («3 λεπτά για την ελληνική γλώσσα») on History Channel. He communicates with the public for hours in every possible way and people now know him and consider him to be one of them. He believes, however, that we don't care about the correct use of the language as much as we should, and the way that successful and accomplished people disregard language really upsets him.

1. Babiniotis G. *Modern School Grammar for All*, Lexicology Center, Athens 2017.

2. Babiniotis G. *The Greek Alphabet. Alphabet – Writing – Orthography*, Athens 2018

3. Babiniotis G. *Our Language : 180 Texts on Language*, Athens 2020.

He never aspired to be a professor, but has always been driven by passion for his subject and always tells his students *"If you have true passion, don't ask yourself what you will do professionally later"*. In addition, he categorically declares that connecting University to the labour market is annoying because University is not a trade school.

According to Georgios Babiniotis, our present educational system is based on information at the expense of knowledge and culture. It fills children's minds by accumulating information but repels them mentally. It is not a coincidence that children do not love school. There is no ideal educational system, of course, but there are some very good and substantial ones.

Georgios Babiniotis has also contributed to quality education serving pro bono as honorary president of the Arsakeia Schools, from which 450 literate and well-mannered students graduate per year. Furthermore, during his two-and-a-half-month tenure as extra-parliamentary Minister for Education, he cooperated harmoniously with all competent officials to start implementing the decisions made in the National Dialogue on Education. He has never

been fascinated by politics, however.

In Greece, the name of Georgios Babiniotis has become synonymous with the concepts of Linguistics and the dictionary of the Greek language. Although he is now Professor Emeritus, and a fervent supporter of the Body of Professors Emeriti, he has not given up any of his activities. I met Professor Babiniotis during my studies, when he was a senior lecturer, and I can assert that even today, at age 82, he retains an unabated passion for language, the inspiration to write and an enviable ability to communicate and interact with society.

The American writer William Arthur Ward says *"The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires,"* and Georgios Babiniotis is, indeed, a great teacher.



Using Red-to-Green Ratios in Paintings by Great Masters to Reveal Volcanic Aerosols in the Atmosphere in the Past 500 Years

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Christos S. Zerefos

We have examined sunsets painted by famous artists as proxy information for the aerosol optical depth (AOD) after major volcanic eruptions. Images derived from precision colour protocols applied to the paintings were compared to online images, and showed that the latter, previously analysed, provide accurate information. Aerosol optical depths (AODs) at 550 nm, corresponding to Northern Hemisphere middle latitudes, calculated by introducing red-to-green (R/G) ratios from a large number of paintings to a radiative transfer model, were significantly correlated with independent proxies from stratospheric AOD and optical extinction data, the dust veil index, and ice core volcanic indices. AODs calculated from paintings were grouped into 50-year intervals from 1500 to 2000. The year of each eruption and the 3 following years were defined as "volcanic". The remaining "non-

volcanic" years were used to provide additional evidence of a multidecadal increase in the atmospheric optical depths during the industrial "revolution". The increase of AOD at 550 nm calculated from the paintings grew from 0.15 in the middle 19th century to about 0.20 by the end of the 20th century. To corroborate our findings, an experiment was designed in which a master painter/colourist painted successive sunsets during and after the passage of Saharan aerosols over the island of Hydra in Greece. Independent solar radiometric measurements confirmed that the colourist's R/G ratios which were used to model his AODs, matched the AOD values measured in situ by co-located sun photometers during the declining phase of the Saharan aerosol. An independent experiment was performed to understand the difference between R/G ratios calculated from a typical volcanic aerosol and those measured from the mineral aerosol during the Hydra experiment. It was found that the differences in terms of R/G ratios were small, ranging between -2.6% and +1.6 %. Also, when analysing different parts of cloudless skies of paintings following major volcanic eruptions, any structural differences seen in the paintings had not altered the results discussed above.

Understanding the atmospheric composition of the past centuries is a very difficult task due to scarcity of available measurements. Especially for atmospheric components such as aerosols and their variability over the past 500 years, relevant information is rare (1,2,3). In this work we used Ångström's law of atmospheric physics that describes the different effects of aerosols on the different wavelengths (colours) of solar light, together with the use of an alternative "database of solar light representations", calculated from paintings by great masters in the past centuries.

A series of paintings by master painters in the period of 1500–2000 have been revisited and comparisons between digital images of paintings from lower resolution vs. high resolution, derived from high precision protocols, showed similar results, as far as the R/G ratios measured at sunsets are concerned. Statistically significant correlation coefficients were found between the R/G ratio values retrieved from low quality/resolution and high quality/resolution digital images at a sample of 124 landscape paintings from the Tate Gallery, London. The earlier estimates of the AOD at 550 nm (based on R/G calibrated ratios from paintings) and the radiative transfer model by Mayer and Kylling (4) and Mayer and Emde (5) were used to compile an independent time series with AODs during 1500–2000. The correlation coefficients between other proxy indices and the estimated AODs from the R/G ratios from paintings are statistically significant. Also, the precision by which the extreme AODs between paintings and proxies, during large volcanic eruptions, match in most cases. The comparison between 50-year averages of the AODs (from R/G paintings) with the total sulphate in ice core and the stratospheric AOD, from which the year of known large volcanic eruptions and the three years that followed were excluded, shows that compared to the pre-industrial period, the industrial period had higher aerosol content, as it is well known and expected from independent data sets in the literature (6). Based on the information retrieved

from the paintings studied, we estimated this increase to range from 0.15 (middle 19th century) to about 0.20 (by the end of the 20th century).

Finally, the above-mentioned experiment was designed in which a master painter painted successive sunsets during the passage of a Saharan dust outbreak over the island of Hydra, Greece on 19 and 20 June 2010 (Fig. 1). The master painter knew nothing about the passage of a Saharan dust event. Our independent sun photometric measurements at Hydra confirmed that the calculated AOD values from R/G ratios measured in the master colourist paintings, matched quite well to the AOD values measured in situ as well as with measurements from a digital camera. It should be noted here that all four watercolours by Panayiotis Tetsis were digitized using the same procedures and standards applied to all works of art photographed by the Photographic Department of the National Gallery, London. These findings point to the conclusion that the experiment provides a new presentation of how a painter, a digital camera and scientific instruments capture changes in R/G ratios at high and low aerosol overhead cases.

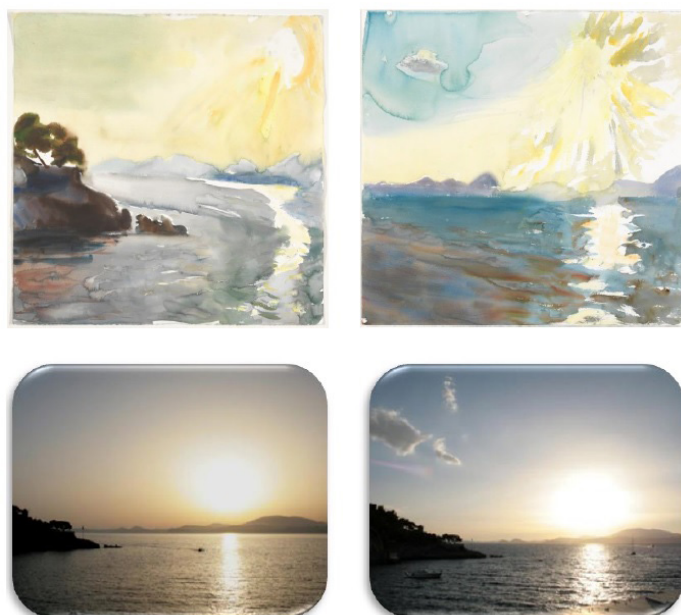


Figure 1

Upper: digitally compressed paintings by P. Tetsis at the Hydra experiment under higher (left panel) and lower (right panel) AOD conditions. Bottom: digital camera photos of the landscape. Under each painting a digital photograph at the centre of the time interval it took to paint each painting is displayed for comparison (see text).

The new information in the paper can be summarised as follows:

The comparison of high precision with low precision colour protocol images at independent samples of paintings from the Tate and the National Galleries in London strengthen the tentative results proposed in by Zerefos et al (2,3), and an example is shown in Fig.2.

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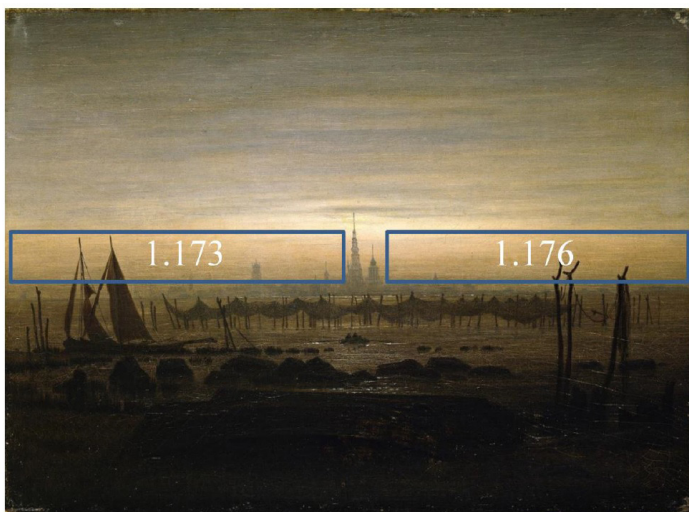


Figure 2

Caspar David Friedrich, *Griefswald in the Moonlight*, 1817 (2 years after Tambora eruption). Corresponding R/G ratios were averaged inside each box (see text).

AODs from a multi-hundred sample of paintings show statistically significant correlations with independent proxies.

Structural differences in paintings do not seem to alter the above results. The signal-to-noise ratios following volcanic eruptions are statistically significant.

When averaged in 50-year intervals, AODs from paintings in non-volcanic years agree with completely independent data sets with the observed increases of the industrial aerosol in the past 150 years.

R/G ratios calculated from different natural profiles such as from volcanic aerosols and Saharan mineral aerosols show very small differences. This explains how the experiment, performed with an internationally known master colourist, arrived at similar results with an increase in R/G ratios during the passage of a Saharan dust event.

Regardless of the school, red-to-green ratios from great masters can provide independent proxy AODs that correlate with widely accepted proxies and with independent measurements.

The main conclusion of the paper is that nature speaks to the hearts and souls of the artists. When colouring sunsets the R/G ratios perceived by the brain contain important environmental information. It remains for an interdisciplinary community to study further the evidence presented in this research.



BOOK REVIEWS

Eugenio Scalfari the Most Influential Italian Journalist Turns 96 and Recounts his Story

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Vincenzo Bonavita

Antonio Gnoli and Francesco Merlo, columnists of *La Repubblica*, are the authors of *Grand Hotel Scalfari, Confessioni libertine su un secolo di carta/Libertine confessions on a century of newspapers*. The book is based on memories of Eugenio Scalfari, who turned 96 on April 6, 2020 and provided hints to Gnoli

and Merlo to write his biography.

A recent analysis of anxiety about Covid-19 in *La*

Repubblica stated that a distinction can be made between "more fragile individuals in conditions of complete dependence, and others with a higher generating potential." To these, anxiety is not aroused by loneliness, but rather by immobility – while the former is anxiety about survival, the latter is anxiety about professional and entrepreneurial death. Scalfari saw this anxiety as something to be overcome. Perhaps the ability to overcome, which Scalfari still hopes for in his most recent editorial in *La Repubblica*, is the true measure of his personality, unchanged after his ninety-six year long life, alongside his vision of the world and, thus, of people – people as they are and people as he would like them to be.

Throughout my not too short life, even if I am not as

old as Eugenio Scalfari-though I trust I will manage to be-I read lots of books, but few impacted on me in terms of the emotional experience of reading itself. To me, reading *Grand Hotel Scalfari* was like going through past times, of which I was one of many testimonials, through the life of a major player in the world of culture, of journalism, of politics, and – why not – of entrepreneurship as an engagement that cannot be separated from the cultural project. A thought of Bruno Visentini, chairman of Olivetti (1) on intellectuals, factories, and the consumer society comes to my mind.

In “*Le scienze*,” Bernardo Valli wrote about an imaginary lunch of Scalfari, on the occasion of his birthday, with his favourite authors, from Montaigne to the Enlightened and down to Altiero Spinelli. The title is “*Festa per Eugenio con Diderot e Voltaire/Party for Eugenio with Diderot and Voltaire*.” Scalfari sought, and found, a master in Montaigne, someone who leaves a mark in those who listen to him and participate with free, albeit unspoken, mental associations. Scalfari would not be as he was and as he is if he had not read Montaigne, like, perhaps, Montaigne would not have been the author of the *Essais* if he had not met Étienne de La Boétie the author, in the late 16th century, of *Discours de la servitude volontaire*. The sense of history and the analysis of history as a complex phenomenon are the hallmarks of Eugenio Scalfari and of his personal history in the world.

Grand Hotel Scalfari consists of 25 chapters, with titles that convey the sense that Scalfari gave to his life and finds in his history: “*I believe it does not make any sense to call oneself a ‘Scalfarian’*”. Perhaps I am influenced by my professional qualification as Clinician of the nervous system, but the denial of Scalfari sounds like stating the opposite.

La Repubblica is not comparable to any other newspaper, because Scalfari set its style, which is – indeed – Scalfarian: the style of Scalfari is the style of the columnists of *La Repubblica*. After all, recognizing oneself at 95 or 96 as the hyperbole of D’Annunzio and referring to *La Repubblica* as “*my Fiume*” (2) cancel the preceding denial. To Eugenio Scalfari, writing itself gives sense to life: “*I will never stop writing, I will write as long as I can write, I will live as long as I can write*.”

La Repubblica was the great love of Scalfari: “*I would like to be seen as one that built the ship, not as the captain that ran it*.” I disagree with Scalfari: building is not just

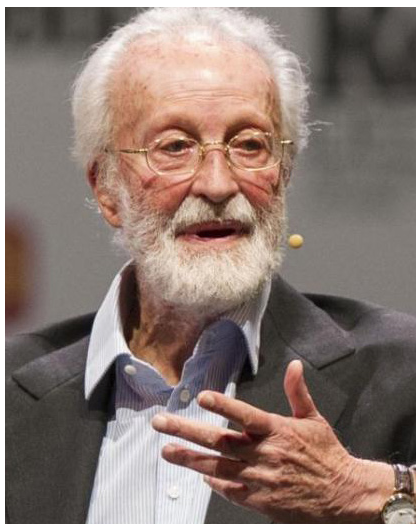
founding, it is also running, especially at the beginning of each uncertain navigation.

On the other hand, “*there are thousands of Scalfaris, and to some extent they are all my likes*.” Once again, my professional qualification makes me quote Scalfari to define Scalfari. “*I trust my instinct, even if I was often wrong and made some blunders. I use Lenin’s method: he divided the world between ‘men of action’ and ‘tea drinkers,’ and I believe I can understand, in friends, where chatter ends and actual dedication starts, I put them to test, and can distinguish honest work from the hash of pompous asses, conversation from background noise. I think I understand human nature, I observe it more often than places, landscapes, cities. I do not get lost in men, but I do get lost in landscapes*.”

However, this is just a part of Scalfari, a very young old man with a rare memory, which is his history. Memory is the history of each of us, but only history and the understanding of history can drive the future: the future of those like Piero Angela, who “*at 90, wants to resume piano playing and prepare a jazz record*,” or like Giorgio Moroder, who says “*at 80, I will make the world dance again*,” but also the future of those that are older than 96: each in their own way, with their human capital of years and a project, which is crucial to give a sense to life, without thinking about the end that is just a moment in life.

Scalfari himself suffers from a few ailments today: diabetes, which he monitors and keeps under control, and hand tremor, which looks to me like an essential tremor that appeared many years ago, even if I made no clinical examination: “*... that tremor affected my manual skills. In the past I used to try to fix small broken objects, but my disease makes it impossible now. And my writing has changed... but my handwriting, which was hard to understand, is now harder, unintelligible, even to me*.” His anguish regarding the tremor is anguish for writing.

I conclude with this note on the ailments of someone who is approaching his hundredth year, which is considered as the limit of life for the human species, and sees a decline of his physical skills. But what matters most, and anyway, is to preserve one’s history, i.e. the memory and the cognitive skills that give shape and content to the history of each of us. This includes Eugenio Scalfari, a “*natural-born optimist*” who sees the sunset, but still says, with a reference to *Il Gattopardo* by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (3): “*like the Prince of Salina, I also wish I could dance with Angelica Sedara*.”



Eugenio Scalfari

1. Olivetti: the typewriter company which, in 1969, purchased the Underwood typewriter company and started, in Italy, the most advanced social programme for its investigators and workers.

2. Gabriele D’Annunzio, poet and politician, on 9/12/1919, entered Fiume (now Rijeka) with renegade Italian soldiers to annex the city, in stark contrast to the plans of the Italian and Allied governments.

3. *Il Gattopardo (The Leopard)*, by Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa. 1958, Pub. Feltrinelli. Luchino Visconti produced a movie (1963) “*The Leopard*”, starring Burt Lancaster, Alain Delon, Claudia Cardinale, who played Angelica Sedara, and Terence Hill.

The Capital of Knowledge: A commentary on How and Why Emeriti Become Involved with Serving the Public Good, and Ought to Be

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Dianne Newell

The first international congress of the European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE) has generated an ambitious, panthematic collection of motivating papers by Emeriti and retired professors from European universities and corresponding members from non-European universities. EAPE

itself was founded in 2016 at the University of Athens. The Proceedings have now been published by Cokkinos DV, Agnantis N, Gardikas K, Soldatos, KRS, editors. *The Capital of Knowledge. Proceedings of the First International Congress*, European Association of Professors Emeriti, May 30 – June 1, 2019. Athens, Society for the Propagation of Useful Books, 2020. 316pp.

The majority of contributions are heavily weighted toward medicine and science. Others review the goals and educational and research activities of Academies and Emeriti Associations, address theoretical and practical approaches to learning and teaching, researching and mentorship, or focus on the historical contributions of Europe, particularly the host country, Greece, to the advancement of culture and knowledge in the larger world.

A theme that runs through *The Capital of Knowledge* is the need to bring together the wealth of knowledge and wisdom that Emeriti possess in an interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary manner in order to benefit the public good. As the title suggests, the intent is to draw on the accumulated cultural capital, in Bourdieu's sense of the meaning (1), in an integrated manner to serve both governments and the general public. Mentorship is given a privileged place in the discussions about the appropriate activities for Associations of Professors Emeriti. For the President of EAPE, Dennis V. Cokkinos, Emeriti in

collaboration with their associations could put "greater emphasis on mentoring" (p. XVIII).

The transdisciplinary theme is taken up by Professor Meletios Athanasios Demopoulos, the Rector of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, in his welcoming remarks. He emphasizes the importance of the "exchange of knowledge and ideas on various scientific fields" and "active cooperation of scientists across academic fields" (p. XXVIII). Similarly, Natale Gaspare De Santo recounts the value of the unity of culture/knowledge as he uses complexity theory to explore the territory between disciplines to create a new method of teaching medicine. Here, it would be interesting also to consider applications of simplicity theory—the idea that living organisms have an uncanny ability to find solutions to the complexities and uncertainties of the world—as an instructional scaffold for both students and instructors in multiple fields (2).

The theme of transdisciplinarity is taken further by Professors Vincenzo Savica and Guido Bellinghieri who promote the ideal of the "interdisciplinary mind" that dissolves the boundaries separating the humanities and sciences. They would like EAPE to contribute to the development of a Third Culture that was first proposed by John Brockman in 1955. The manifesto they suggest for EAPE would "promote new human theories and practices in every field" in order "to overcome the contrast between humanistic and scientific culture defining a new summary, a new unitary democratic proposal of knowledge" (pp. 109-110).

More recent versions of the quest for both unity and utility include the Mode 2 knowledge model (3) and the body of work by Nico Stehr on knowledge societies (4). A

1. Bourdieu, P. *Homo Academicus*. (Trans. P. Collier). Stanford University Press, Stanford, California, 1988.

2. Berthoz A, Petit J-L, editors. *Complexité-Semplexité*. Collège de France, Open Access Publication, Paris, France, 2014.

3. Gibbons M, Limoges C, Nowotny H, Schwartzmann S, Scott P, Trow M. *The New Production of Knowledge: The Dynamics of Science and Research in Contemporary Societies*. Sage, London, 1994.

4. Adolf, MT, editor. Nico Stehr: *Pioneer in Theory of Society and Knowledge*. Springer, Cham, Switzerland, 2018.

consensus exists according to Gibbons, et al. (3) and Scott (5) that knowledge production and diffusion has diversified and changed to include “Mode 2” knowledge. In contrast to Mode 1, which involves discipline-based scientific discovery, Mode 2 knowledge is transdisciplinary, project-centered, open organizationally and shaped by commercial interest. Similarly, Stehr examines the tensions between increasing knowledgeability and social order and makes a clear argument for the application of integrated knowledge.

Many of the papers on topics in the areas of health and science demonstrate the successful integration of widely different academic disciplines to the advancement of research and social benefit. They include Professor Maria Papathanassiou’s contribution on the utility of archaeoastronomy to her study of cultural properties, Elias Kouvelas, writing on the neurobiological and anthropological aspects of neuroaesthetics, which is a new, interdisciplinary neuroscientific approach to art and aesthetics, and John Nic Yfantopoulos, on the vital role for Professors Emeriti from different disciplines to the study of the multiple determinants of health and economic growth in the 21st-century.

The inclusion of research on neuroscience in the proceedings volume is most welcome. The Covid-19 pandemic itself, which began only months after the congress took place, exemplifies the critical importance of neuroscience within medicine. What was at first categorized as a respiratory disease quickly (once reports surfaced of new types of symptoms for victims, such as impaired taste and smell, severe headaches, and nausea) revealed its neuroscientific side (6).

Mentorship is intertwined with the transdisciplinary theme. For Professor Prokopios Pavlopoulos, H. E. The President of the Hellenic Republic, mentor is the

authentic model of the integrated personality who brings a “worldview” to the mission of learning (p. XXIII). For De Santo and Cokkinos, emeriti should be regarded as memory keepers who can apply their accumulated knowledge (the capital of age) when they mentor. Teams of the young and old investigators led by the young, funded, combine innovation and wisdom and “may generate epochal ideas” (p. 137). Liv Mjelde draws on the work of Dewey, Freire, Montessori and Vygotsky, to think through “contradictions between outlooks on [the] ways of learning area” (p. 233). She favours adopting the master/apprenticeship, or workshop, tradition in conjunction with mentoring and students cooperating with each other. This is a thoughtful model of learning and mentoring for Emeriti to consider.

Throughout the text, but particularly in the section on the Activities of Academies and Emeriti Associations, the reader is provided with examples of the commitment to some of the ideals expressed above and knowledge in action. Professor Lars Walloe relates how the Environmental Steering Panel of the European Academies Science Advisory Council aims to provide independent, evidence-based scientific advice on bioenergy as a renewable source of energy. In a broader sense, George Vastilikiotis describes the role of the Association of Professors Emeriti in Northern Greece in advocating “on matters of academic, social and international importance” (p. 207). As he puts it “Our talent, our expertise, and our personal involvement are all vital to opening the doors to our future too” (p. 209).

The publication of *Capital of Knowledge* establishes this substantial collection as an historical milestone for Emeriti and retired professors everywhere. It also sets a high standard for the projects and publications of the European Association of Emeritus Professors in the years ahead.

5. Scott, P, editor. Higher Education Re-formed. Falmer Press, London, 2000.

6. Eisen A. The Neurologist and Covid-19. UBC Emeritus College Newsletter, 2020, 2(5): 15.



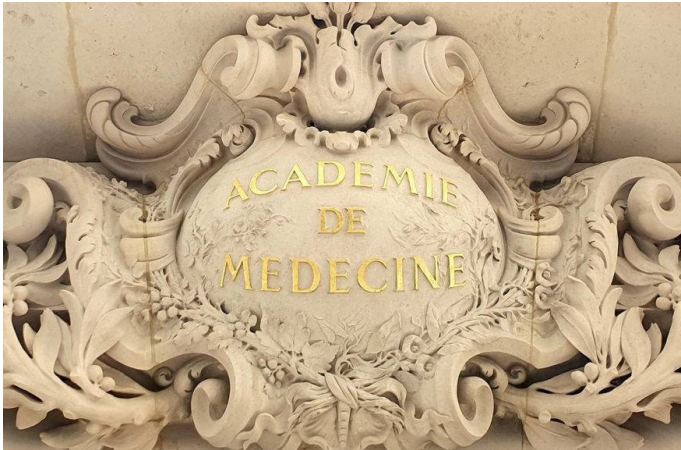


How is the French Academy of Medicine dealing with the Covid-19 outbreak?

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Mansion entrance of the Academy of Medicine in Paris.

The first mission of the Academy was, at its foundation in 1820, to fight against the epidemics which were the main causes of death in France, essentially two of them, small pox and cholera. It succeeded in diffusing the anti-small pox vaccination throughout the country and vigorously condemned the treatment of cholera by homeopathy as proposed by Hahnemann, instead of rehydration that the Academy considered essential. From its creation the Academy counted famous infectionologists and bacteriologists in its ranks, including Louis Pasteur, Emile Roux, Gaston Ramon, Albert Calmette. One of them, Charles Nicolle, Nobel prize winner in 1928 for the discovery of the transmission of typhus by lice, wrote two premonitory books *Le destin des épidémies* (*The fate of epidemics*) and *Naissance, vie et mort des maladies infectieuses* (*Birth, life and death of the infectious diseases*). Since the Academy has to recommend to the public authorities what measures to take in the face of an epidemic, it gathered together, from the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, a small group of its members: specialists in virology, zoonoses, infectious diseases and epidemiology. This committee has published, over the last two months, 50 press releases on the pandemic that were intended for the government, the media and the population. They can be divided into three groups: what must be done to prevent the spread of the pandemic, what to think about the foreseeable evolution of the disease and what societal and ethical issues are raised by the pandemic? The opinion of the Academy has been

widely disseminated by the media and has sometimes given rise to controversy. I will comment on some of these press releases as examples of the work of the Academy, giving priority to the earliest.

1. What measures should be taken to limit the spread of the pandemic in the population?

The Academy's first communiqué on 22 March was "Covid-19 and masks". Its opinion was, that in the situation of a shortage of masks at that time, priority for their delivery must be given to the most exposed healthcare professionals, then, as soon as possible, to persons most in contact with others, and then to the totality of the population. The Academy criticized the short-sightedness of the authorities who, shortly before the start of the pandemic, gave the order to destroy most of the stock of masks considered obsolete without immediately replenishing it. It advised mobilisation of the entire textile industry of the country to fill this gap. This was done and the scarcity of masks was overcome.

The following press releases (26 and 27 March) were on the problem of homeless people and illegal immigrants who are particularly exposed to Sars-CoV-2 due to the precariousness and promiscuity of their living conditions and the impossibility for them to access protection measures which accentuate their fragility and the risk of developing serious forms of the infection. It therefore considered, as an emergency, that homeless persons and illegal immigrants should be provided with shelter, food, information, free access to preventive measures, medical care in the event of symptoms, and, in addition, access to screening tests and hospitalisation or intensive care units for those with severe symptoms.

The Academy has also set guidelines for testing as soon as the pandemic spreads in the country. Virus detection tests are indispensable in all subjects at risk of having been contaminated and in those at risk of contaminating others. To avoid the spread of the disease, subjects who test positive should be isolated at home or in a hotel for 2 weeks. Tests should also be carried out on subjects coming from abroad. Serological tests allow the identification of subjects who have been ill and have synthesized antibodies

that are likely to be protective. They are also essential to know the prevalence of the disease.

2. The follow-up of the disease and its successive phases (1)

The Academy has studied the future of the pandemic according to the already-ancient teaching of Charles Nicolle (1912). We can distinguish four phases. The first is that of diffusion from "clusters" that we cannot extinguish. This is the phase of containment and barriers. Phase 2, that of partial deconfinement, becomes possible when the virus circulates less, as shown by a decrease in the number of hospitalised patients and those in intensive care, and those whose test for the virus is positive. This phase is reversible if a second wave occurs. Paris is now in Phase 2. Phase 3 is that of return to normality, although the virus may again cause isolated cases. One of the following conditions is necessary for the occurrence of Phase 3: an effective treatment, a vaccine available to all, immunity acquired by a large percentage of the population. Phase 4 is the treatment of the sequelae, the prevention of a new pandemic and preparation to fight against it, should it occur. The Academy calls for a reorganisation of hospitals with an increased flexibility, sufficient stocks of masks and ventilators, the creation of a health reserve made up of students and recent retirees and more coordination between the public and private sectors.

3. Ethical and societal issues

Among the many ethical and societal problems, three must be highlighted. First, should the economy take precedence over health? The answer varies from country to country. The first option for France was to protect the economy rather than health after a two month period of containment. Now that the country is in phase 2, the solution is to go towards an attenuated confinement, allowing children to go to school and adults to work, while advising older people to retain barrier measures and remain at home. The second

issue that the Academy examined, was how to prevent the public from being receptive to false information conveyed by the media and social networks. It must be made clear to everyone that a drug can only be prescribed if its safety and efficacy are proven by clinical trials conducted according to scientific standards and that many of the claims being made are unfounded (2). Finally, a third problem is how to reconcile the medical confidentiality with the smartphone technique of screening people in contact with others that are proven carriers of the virus. Not wanting to let others know about one's illness and, for health professionals, not disclosing patients' diseases are fundamental principles. The Academy proposed methods that reconcile the preservation of secrecy and the effectiveness of the technique (3).

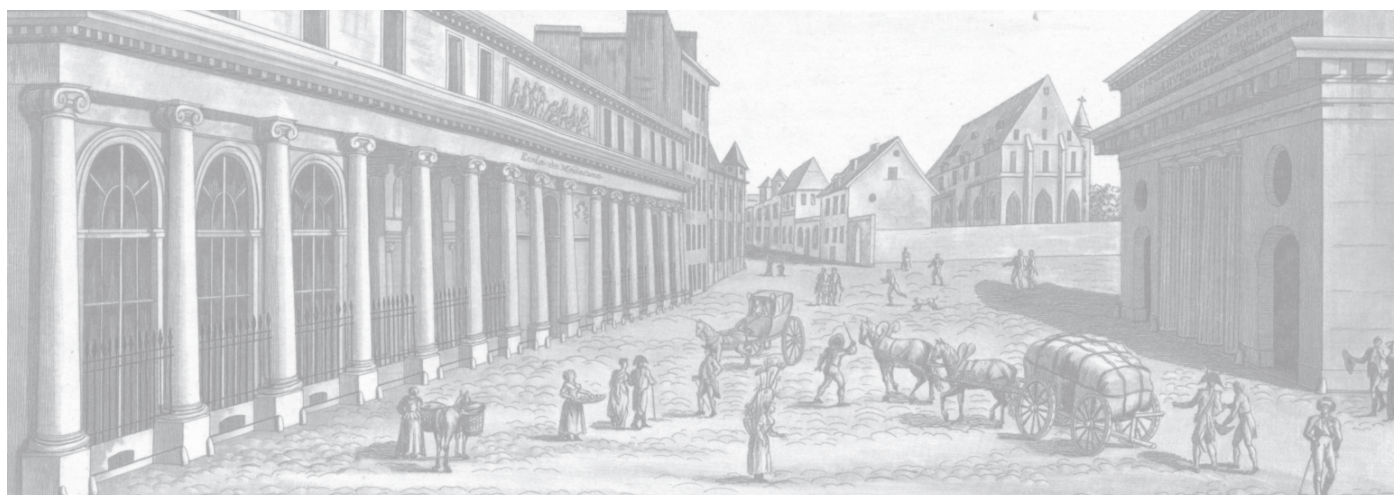
The majority of members of the Academy are men and women over the age of 65. I think I have amply demonstrated the extent of the work that they did. Moreover, members of the Academy were interviewed by the Parliamentary Office for the study of scientific and technological choices (OPECST) in charge of the preparation of that type of law. Their work was efficient as evidenced by the number of their recommendations put into practice. The Academy is also anxious for international partnership. It has already organised video conferences with several foreign medical academies, including those of China, Brazil and Romania, which were organised in order to compare each country's attitude to face the epidemic. Next June, a one day videoconference will examine, with our foreign colleagues, all aspects of the disease. In this way, we hope to gain new insight into its knowledge, suggested treatments and possible vaccinations.



1. COVID-19 Crisis Exit Phases. Press release of the French National Academy of Medicine April 25, 2020. In www.academie-medecine.fr

2. Clinical Research and Covid-19: Science is not an option. Press release of the French National Academy of Medicine. May 8, 2020 in www.academie-medecine.fr

3. Covid-19, epidemiological tracing and medical ethics. Press release of the French National Academy of Medicine May 5, 2020. In www.academie-medecine.fr





Covid-19, Step 2: If, When and How we will Return to Normal Life. What we learned. Round Table in Video Conference via Zoom Platform in Naples

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A timely round table on *Covid-19 Step 2* took place in Naples. It was Co-chaired by Giancarlo Bracale (emeritus vascular surgeon, Editorial Board Member of the *Bull Eur Assoc Prof Emer*) and by Maddalena Illario European Commission expert for thematic groups "Healthy and Active Aging". Among participants were: Enrico Coscioni (cardiac surgeon, Special Health Adviser to the Governor of Campania), Luigi Califano (Director of the School of Medicine at University Federico II), Gino Nicolais (emeritus of Polymer Technologies), Sergio Sciarelli (Emeritus Economics and Business Management). The list of speakers included university professors of Hygiene, Corporate Organization, Planning Transport Systems, Psychology and Cardiology, **experts** in banking, transport and tourism and Stefania Brancaccio (a Lady Knight of Labour).

Many topics were covered (Covid-19: The Campania Model, the School of Medicine between teaching and patients care; the value of scientific research, inequalities and ethical behaviour, safety in the workplace, mobility and logistics in Campania after the pandemic, tourism in Campania, back to hypothetical normalcy, territorial medicine, the banking system, the future of small and medium enterprises).

"Epidemiological data: Italy about 300,000 infected, about 31,000 deaths; Lombardy about 90,000 infected, about 15,000 deaths; Campania about 4,000 infected, 389 deaths" (Giancarlo Bracale).

"Campania responded much better than other Italian regions in its task force's tenacity and timeliness. The spread of the contagion has been blocked; it could have been really dangerous considering the population density on the coast. There was a good control of environments and healthcare professional's contamination. Conversion of up to 800 hospital beds for Covid-19 positive patients, was put in place; 152 out of 172 intensive care places were occupied. The number reached 300 thanks to modular hospitals in the territory" (Enrico Coscioni).

"The School of Medicine and Surgery replied by using online systems for lectures, exams, degrees, diplomas. State exams were replaced with online internship to allow the rapid entry of doctors into the labour market. An increase in admission places to the School of Medicine is expected. Teaching cannot be without assistance: security

systems for students and for secure contact with teachers, tutors, patients and care services were enhanced. The teaching will be improved with the use of mannequins and simulators and controlled remotely. Regarding the increase in admission places at the School of Medicine: the Campania Region has guaranteed an increase of 30 scholarships for Federico II Specializations" (Luigi Califano).

The "stress test" that has been held for health and university has not yet occurred for transport. In Phase 1 transport ensured supply during the most acute phase of the crisis. In the metropolitan area there are three million people and six million journeys per day. There will be a cut in transport capacity of between 50% and 75%, so there will be a public transport crisis. The consequence will be the massive use of private cars which will result in an increase of fine particulates and air pollution which will promote the virus development. An emergency measure could be the requisition of thousands of tourist buses that are currently not in use in order to give a "breathing space" to the tourism sector which has been massacred by the crisis (Ennio Cascetta).

"In Covid-19 phase 2, it is necessary to ensure work, education and justice. These things are achieved through the prevention of infectious risk, the key points of which are: 1) more than one metre physical distancing; 2) the use of protective equipment for both individuals and organisations, in order to minimise contagion risk; 3) rapid testing for early diagnosis and evaluation of antibodies - although no testing guarantees 100% sensitivity and specificity" (Maria Triassi).

"Phase 1 created an emotional storm of fear, sadness, loss of social contact, enforced distance from our loved ones, restriction and uncertainty of change. In Phase 2 we need to increase psychological flexibility by removing from the mind all negative emotions and the obsession with the "invisible enemy". In this context new lifestyles such as smart working with work life balance, will help" (Roberta Vacca).





Inaugural Meetings of the Association of Emeriti at the University Federico II in Naples

Natale G. De Santo, MD

Emeritus Professor University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy, President of EAPE

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The Association of Professors Emeriti at the University Federico II in Naples (APEF, <http://www.apec.unina.it>) started its programmes with Webinars that took place on May 7 and 15, 2019 and are available in live streaming (YouTube channel).

Among the speakers was Giancarlo Bracale - former Professor of Vascular Surgery, Editorial Board Member of the *Eur Bull Prof Emeriti* - who lectured on *"Health and Wellbeing: Adding life to years not years to life."* Antonio Palma commented on *"A New University System."* and Luigi Fusco Girard discussed *"Sustainable development and culture of sustainability: from circular economy to circular city."*

Professor Gaetano Manfredi, former Rector of the University Federico II and of the Italian Conference of Rectors, presently Minister of University and Research, took part in the opening ceremony. He connected to the ceremony directly from his office in Rome to give his thanks for the initiative that was started during his Presidency. He was convinced, from the very beginning, of the relevant role of the association. Thus in order to render the collaboration fruitful and to speed decision making a permanent delegate to the association with the status of Pro-Rector, was nominated. The Pro-Rector follows, on behalf of the Rector and of the University, all the activities of the association. *"The association of emeriti represent a hinge between university and society and will support to the third mission of the university. This is of paramount importance in a period of great changes in economics and industrial productivity, a time when decisions must be immediate and appropriate".* Emeriti give a subsidiary contribution to achieve sustainable objectives for economy, society, environment and cultural integration. *"You have the capability to speak to everyone that for the University Federico II and for the Italian University system represents a great value".*

In order to develop strategies to build a bridge between University Research and Business Luigi Nicolais discussed *"The value of Research."* Professor Nicolais, an expert on advanced materials, is a former President of the National Research Council, and former Minister of Innovation. Presently he is the President and Co-Founder of Materials. In his opinion *"The future is determined by knowledge,*

creativity and ability to generate, and put to work, new ideas. Our times are characterised by great transformations that cause new questions and generate new certainties. One of the most important is the value of innovation seen as creative, intellectual technical capability and skill for utilising knowledge. Although the Italian systems, in terms of creativity and innovation, is strong, knowledge has a weak impact on the competitiveness of the country and, seen from the perspective of industry, the translation of research is not effective. This is a hot topic now, since the technological translation is the tool that allows industry to receive, understand, elaborate and apply research and put on the market innovative products".

We learn that the University Federico II directly,

- Hosts the headquarters of the APEF (Association Professors Emeriti of the University Federico II) in space which is suitable for meetings of the Council and for working groups of the Association.
- It provides a hall for the assembly, meetings and seminars of the Association.
- It is host to the web site of the University news of the Association for listed members with their short CVs, news on activities and digital publications of APEF and Forum.
- It can participate, through its organisation, in common projects with the Institutional activities of APEF, or into activities of common interest or to projects to be defined and supported by specific agreements.
- Nominates a delegate to APEF.

In addition The University Federico II, through its departments,

- Enhances the scientific exchanges of Emeriti with their colleagues of the University, giving special support to interdisciplinary events.
- Promotes the participation of Emeriti in interdepartmental research and for teaching support (supplementary activities, seminars, tutorship/co-tutorship for degree theses, PhD theses) and for cultural initiatives and initiatives of social relevance.
- Permits Emeriti access to Departmental facilities (libraries, computer resources, research laboratories).
- Allows Emeriti to use a working place for research in the Department (depending on availability).

- Grants complete visibility to research studies performed by Emeriti on the website of the Department.

The activities supported directly and indirectly by the University Federico II show that professors emeriti at this university have many more benefits than one could foresee from its the constitution. It means that a lot has been achieved "by practice", we in Italy say by "prassi".



Carlo Lauro

APEF is presided over by Carlo Lauro. The council consists of Giancarlo Bracale (Board member of the *Bull Eur Assoc Prof Emeriti*), Luigi Fusco Girard (Valuation, Environmental Economy), Carlo Pedone (General and Inorganic Chemistry) and Mario Rusciano

(Labor Law). APEF has a press office, a website on the portal of the University Federico II (<http://www.apef.unina.it>). There one finds the Association's various committees and activities, the list of members and a section dedicated to the European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE) illustrating EAPE Newsletter no.5 and the programme of the First EAPE Congress.



NEWS



Minutes of the council meeting of Tuesday April 14, 2020

Luigi Campanella

Senior Group Italian Society of Chemistry, Secretary of EAPE, Rome, Italy

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Participants: All the invited

Minutes of the last teleconference approved without any variation.

Bank account of EAPE: reactivated and actually available for the payment of the subscription fees. Actually, the balance is relatively poor so that these payments are welcome; by reason of this situation the delivery by post will be performed according to the cheapest procedure.

In order to speed up the time for payments from any member an invitation letter was mailed and another one will be sent in the next days, the text of which has already been agreed. A suggestion from the Board concerns the mailing of invitations to renew subscriptions, but sent cumulatively to the National Groups of EAPE, starting from the greatest ones, Italian and Greek.

Committees: Additively the Enrolment and Advocacy Group chaired by Past President Dennis Cokkinos (and waiting for the members who will cover the positions of vice-chair and secretary, following the renounce of the formerly indicated) will develop a programme aiming to increase the number of members: anyone on the Board is requested to suggest to Dennis possible interested colleagues to join EAPE. An invitation letter has to be mailed also to the corresponding members.

Ethics Group: Its provisory chair, Luigi Campanella, updated the Board about the contact with the ethics group of WHO in view of possible future cooperation and about the positions still open of vice chair and secretary.

Bulletin: issue nr.2 is ready; only final revision by Malcolm Philips is due. Its contents are of excellent quality so that the President asks the Board to do the most in order that the Bulletin is inserted in the official list of the publications. In order to give it the most publicity the Bulletin is foreseen to be mailed to universities, cultural associations, Ministries of Culture, starting with European countries. Any members interested to let the Bulletin be distributed to a person or institution is requested to forward the proposal to the General Secretary.

Scientific Call and outsourcing: President Elect Les Ebdon informs that now is not a favourable moment because of the pandemic, but in any case the contacts obtained by the ad hoc working group, formed on the occasion of the last teleconference, will suggest to wait for the most suitable call in the program HORIZON 2020 and meanwhile to look for partners of international value.

New ideas to enable EAPE to grow: anyone who wishes is invited to mail a letter to the President of EAPE.

Next teleconference scheduled:

Thursday May 14 at 1.00.p.m, Paris time

■ INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Bull Eur Assoc Profs Emer is a multidisciplinary journal fostering the idea that the vocation for research and teaching is for life and protecting full use of the human capital of professors emeriti.

The Bulletin adopts the Vancouver style. Authors are invited to visit the website of the Association and read the last issue.

Manuscripts shall be in good English in Word, font 12, with good illustrations and shall be emailed to the editor in Chief, Natale Gaspare De Santo MD.

• Email: nataleg.desanto@unicampania.it

Original manuscripts (Word file) around 900-1100 words shall include affiliation(s), email and phone numbers of the authors. A portrait of the 1st author is required. 1 Figure and 1 Table (emailed on separate sheets) and a maximum of 6 references and a minimum of 3 are allowed. References must be numbered and ordered sequentially as they appear in the text. When cited in the text, reference numbers are to be in round brackets.

Manuscripts related to news about emeriti and their associations shall be limited to a maximum of 500 words, and up to 3 references; no portrait of the author is required, but 1 Figure or 1 Table can be added.

All manuscripts undergo editing.

At the end of the article number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. For articles with more than 6 authors, list the first 3 authors before using "et al."; For articles with 6 authors, or fewer, list all authors.

JOURNALS

1. *Journal article published electronically ahead of print*: Authors may add to a reference, the DOI ("digital object identifier") number unique to the publication for articles in press. It should be included immediately after the citation in the References.

Bergholdt HKM, Nordestgaard BG, Ellervik C. Milk intake is not associated with low risk of diabetes or overweight-obesity: a Mendelian randomization study in 97,811 Danish individuals. *Am J Clin Nutr* 2015 Jul 8 (Epub ahead of print; DOI: [doi:10.3945/ajcn.114.105049](https://doi.org/10.3945/ajcn.114.105049)).

2. *Standard journal article*. List all authors when 6 or fewer; when 6 or more, list only the first 3 and add "et al." Abbreviate journal titles according to *Index Medicus* style, which is used in MEDLINE citations.

De Santo NG, Altucci P, Heidland A et al. The role of emeriti and retired professors in medicine. *Q J Med* 2014;107: 407-410

3. Committee on Infectious Diseases, American Academy of Pediatrics. Measles: reassessment of the current immunization policy. *Pediatrics* 1989; 84:1110-1113.

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Antier JJ. Jean Guittou. Milan, Paoline, 2002

2. Committee report or corporate author

World Health Organisation. Good Health Adds Life to Years. Geneva, WHO, 2012.

3. Chapter in book

De Santo NG. The priority: broadening the boundaries of paediatrics and turning basic science into cures. In Erich J, Corrad F, De Santo NG, ed. This I think should have priority in child health care services. Joachim Barke, Hannover 2018:69-71.

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De Santo NG. The Impact of Covid-19 on Education and Science Florence in the XIV century -after plague, famine, death and depopulation- generated Renaissance Scholars such as Filippo Brunelleschi, Giovambattista Alberti and Leonardo An Achievable goal for our Universities. *Bull Eur Assoc Prof Emer* 2020; 1(2): 19-20. (accessed 14 May, 2020)

