

## Editorials

## In Memory of Professor Davide Calamari

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One year ago, on December 31, 2004, Prof. Davide Calamari passed away after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Davide's death leaves an enormous gap, both in the scientific community and in the lives of his many friends and collaborators, but his professionalism and love of science will be a lasting inspiration to all. Over more than thirty years, Davide established himself as one of the most distinguished ecotoxicologists. He published numerous papers on ecotoxicological research (particularly on fish toxicology, bioaccumulation in vegetation, and on the global distribution of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)). He was one of the pioneers in the emerging field of pharmaceutical pollution.

He was born in 1941 (Biganzolo, Lake Maggiore, Italy) and after graduating in Biological Sciences at the University of Milan, he worked on pollution problems at the Water Research Institute of the National Italian Research Council, and in 1983 he became Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of Milan. In 1995, he advanced to the position of Full Professor of Ecology of the Faculty of Sciences at the new University of Insubria (Varese, Italy). Initially, he was at the Department of Structural and Functional Biology for about ten years, and afterwards at the Department of Biotechnology and Molecular Sciences. During his scientific career, Davide was responsible for various worldwide commitments. Within the European Union he had been a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Toxicology and Ecotoxicology and chairman of the sub-committee on Ecotoxicology. He was one of the 14 independent scientific members of the External Science Advisory Panel for Long-range Research Initiatives of the **European Chemical Industry Council**. In 1977, he was co-ordinator of the joint project on the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea based at United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and from 1970 to 1986, he was member of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission at the FAO. During 1990–1991, he was Chairman of the Joint Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution of the United Nations. He worked for over twenty years in West Africa on the risk assessment and management of pesticides used for controlling the vectors of tropical diseases (particularly onchocerciasis). More recently, he was involved in studying therapeutic drugs as environmental contaminants in rivers and was team leader in international projects in Uzbekistan.

Davide gave lectures in several advanced international courses on Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Europe, Africa, Russia, and at the Chulabhorn Research Institute of Thailand in South East Asia. In 2000, he received the Environmental Education Award from the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC).

Davide was a charismatic leader with a talent for creating a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere in every working meeting. The scientific community will greatly miss him. I personally worked with Davide at Insubria University from 1995 until his death, and together we contributed to the emergence and growth of risk assessment research at the University of Insubria. I can think of no greater way to honor the legacy of Dr. Davide Calamari than to have solicited from his many colleagues the outstanding scientific papers that are in this special issue of the international journal **Environmental Science and Pollution Research (ESPR)**. I want to acknowledge the great support of ESPR for this opportunity. An unexpectedly large number of manuscripts were received honoring Dr. Calamari, and as a consequence, some will be published in a special section of the journal dedicated to Dr. Calamari in subsequent issues.

I would like to thank all of the authors for their contributions of articles dedicated to the research interests of Dr. Calamari. Indeed, his interests and expertise are reflected in this series of papers on environmental persistence of chemicals, pollution in water and bioaccumulation of POPs (DDT, PCBs, dioxins and furans), pesticides leaching and toxicity, water quality problems, vegetal bioindicators, ecotoxicological QSAR, endocrine disruptors' and pharmaceuticals' pollution.

I would also like to thank all the reviewers that have contributed with their friendly collaboration and prompt and rigorous reviews. It has been my privilege and pleasure to correspond with the authors and the reviewers. Again, I want to thank you for this way of honoring our colleague and friend, Davide Calamari. His legacy will be remembered in this special issue of ESPR.

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