



## Archimede Mordenti: a father of science, a father to his pupils

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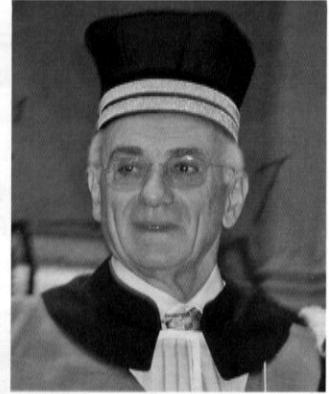
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## *Archimede Mordenti: a father of science, a father to his pupils*

A void was created on the 11<sup>th</sup> March when Professor Archimede Mordenti passed away, lost forever to his family and to the world of science and academia. His departure was sudden and as he would have wanted it, but it was far far too soon.

Born in Forlì in 1936, he graduated with honours in Veterinary Medicine in 1959 and followed all the stages of an academic career at the University of Bologna, enriched by his extraordinary experience at the Belgian University of Leuven. It was in fact here that he made a strong mark as a physiologist and nutritionist, giving a unique and incomparable perspective to his preparation as a zootechnician, and it was in Leuven that his important friendship with the esteemed Professor Vanbelle first began.



In 1970, at a very early age, he won a professorship in animal physiology and nutrition at the University of Milan and went on to hold all manner of positions from Institute, Department and Specialisation School Director to Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and promoter of its European standing; President of the Collegio Ungarico of the University of Bologna, of the Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee, of the Nutrition and Food Researchers Association (ARNA), of the Forage Conservation Centre of the CNR (National Research Council) and of the Parma ham and San Daniele consortiums Commission. He was a member of the Superior Health Council and of National Technical Commission of the Ministry of Health for the protection of livestock and animals for slaughter, of the Parmigiano Reggiano Consortium research Committee and of the Commission of the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies for the updating of official analytical methodology. He was also a founding member of various scientific societies (ARNA, ASPA, SIPAS), a member of the National Academy of Agriculture, of the Geographile Academy and of numerous other societies as well as rector of the Clever Pig Academy.

Of one achievement he was particularly proud: in 2001 the President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, conferred upon him the Golden Medal and Award of Merit for outstanding personalities in Science and Culture.

The memory of a long and prestigious scientific career lives on in more than 250 publications, each of which bears witness to his farsighted role as an innovator in the world of zootechnics.

Of Archimede Mordenti the academic, I like to recollect how he understood the strong links between zootechnics - and animal nutrition in particular - and human medicine way ahead of time. He anticipated the notion that human health can also be strengthened through a virtuous and scientifically impeccable food chain, a concept which today is well-acknowledged although there is still ground for further research. His precocious intuitions made way for the innovative, multidisciplinary research doctorate on the Qualitative Improvement of food for man, and later, to the International Master degree on Food safety of Animal products, of which he was President.

Of Archimede Mordenti the dean, I like to remember the unequalled support he lent in creating the Centralised Faculty Library - a task into which I invested my very being - and the many ideas we matured together both within and outside of academic organs.

Of Archimede Mordenti the man, I like to remember the love he cherished for his family, his ability to convey this humane quality through his work to many graduates, who not only put his teaching to good use by attaining prestigious positions in the productive arena, but who also kept hold of a special and unbreakable

bond with him, not to mention the extraordinary relationship he had with stockbreeders.

As a pupil, I like to remember more than 30 years of work at his side and that he was very proud of me.

The world of zootechnics, through the journal of the Association which represents it therefore, on this occasion, through myself, with deep affection, mourns his loss.

***Rosanna Scipioni***



Photo of the Awards Ceremony