

**Edited by
L. Donato and A. L'Abbate**

Frontiers in Cardiology for the 80's

Frontiers in Cardiology for The Eighties

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L. DONATO and A. L'ABBATE

*Institute of Patologia Medica,
University of Pisa and Institute of
Clinical Physiology, CNR, Pisa, Italy*



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Preface

When Bayer Italia expressed their idea of promoting a high level scientific initiative in the field of cardiology, we were initially rather sceptical.

We live in a time in which we have probably too many meetings and too many courses: these are not always scientifically or professionally rewarding.

However, thinking it over and discussing it with other people in our Institute, we gradually developed the idea on which this advanced course is based. The idea that the forefront of cardiology has been recently moving at such a fast pace, that even the most advanced groups in one field often lose track of what is happening next door, busy as they are following the progress of their subdiscipline. A classic example of this strabismic attitude is the field of ischaemic heart disease with respect to that of hypertension. Different meetings, different societies, separate experts keep their own respective internal discussion going, despite the large overlap of the two diseases in epidemiological, pathophysiological and clinical terms. We thought therefore that it might be worth trying to identify a series of topics that usually live a separate life, but are *de facto* largely interdependent, and to have a range of experts discussing the new ideas, the new problems and the new perspectives in the common environment of the same meeting.

For their epidemiological dimensions and for the impact of changing concepts we chose arterial hypertension and ischaemic heart disease. Then, we thought it important to discuss new trends in the two types of intervention in cardiology: surgery and drugs. Finally it seemed important to devote a full day to discuss what can be expected from the technological revolution that is in progress today. It is not so common to have, in the same meeting, such a distinguished group of experts in the field of clinical and experimental cardiology, cardiac surgery, epidemiology, biophysics and bioengineering. For us, it was also one more way of testing the hypothesis on which our Institute in Pisa was built and operates, with its multilevel and multidisciplinary approach to cardiology.

We wish to thank our colleagues from the Royal Postgraduate Medical School and from the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine of the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit for their help in preparing the programmes.

We wish to thank several people who worked for this programme, but particularly Mrs Hilda de Ruyter Biagini for her dedication and efficiency, both during the meeting and the preparation of the Proceedings, and Dr A. Biagini for his great help in the review of the galley proofs.

Finally of course we wish to thank particularly Bayer Italia for making all this possible with unrivalled generosity and for their true scientific intent, documented by the total freedom they gave us.

August 1983

*Luigi Donato
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