

COMPUTERS IN CARDIOLOGY

September 23-26, 1991

Venice, Italy



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IN MEMORY OF ROSANNA DEGANI



Rosanna Degani died of cancer on October 28th 1991. Her unexpected death is a cause of deep sorrow in all of us who had the privilege of knowing her.

Following her doctoral studies, Rosanna became interested in automatic diagnosis in electrocardiography. She worked in this field for many years, becoming the leading expert in Italy and one of the most respected experts world-wide. Her principal contributions are in the methods for automatic interpretation of the electrocardiogram based on the theory of fuzzy sets and on artificial intelligence. Her experience in the field has also been an important component in a ten-year activity with the European Community commission for the definition of Common Standards for Quantitative Electrocardiography (CSE).

Her scientific accomplishments were recognized early in her career, and she reached the highest research position within the National Research Council at an unusually young age. In addition to research, Rosanna was also particularly versed in research organization and management, where she showed generous dedication, efficiency and an ability to interact with colleagues and other people. Because of these qualities in 1989 she was awarded the directorship of the "Istituto per ricerche di Dinamica dei Sistemi e Bioingegneria" (LADSEB) of the National Research Council of Italy.

The most recent evidence of her style and enthusiasm was the organization of the 1991 conference of Computers in Cardiology in Venice which she chaired, personally taking care of many of the details, right up to the opening of the conference. But the rapid progression of the disease finally prevented her from attending the conference she had worked so hard to prepare.

While we can easily describe her scientific accomplishments, we, her friends, can not even begin to write about her human qualities: she was an extraordinary figure of woman, friend and mother. We would like to remember her courage in facing the disease, and her elegance and charm towards all people around her.

Rosanna's life was short and intense; the memory of her will long last among us.

*The Italian delegation and local organizing committee
Computers in Cardiology, Venice, 1991*

DEDICATION

Members of the Board of Directors of Computers in Cardiology extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Dr Ing Rosanna Degani and to the Italian scientific community on their great loss. We, her dear friends and colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic, are proud to dedicate this volume of the Proceedings to her memory.

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Introduction

Computers in Cardiology held its eighteenth annual scientific meeting in the charming and historic city of Venice, and the meeting was hosted by a consortium of colleagues from the Italian engineering and medical communities, led by Dr. Rosanna Degani. The formal sessions were full of exciting and enriching science, and the conference was also designed to provide many opportunities for informal professional and personal exchanges. We welcomed cardiologists, physiologists, engineers, and computer scientists from all over the world who share a common interest in the application of modern technology to clinical and research problems in cardiology.

The meeting featured a special symposium on the important subject of the technology and clinical use of implantable cardioverter/defibrillators. This session brought together a number of expert engineers and clinicians to review the engineering design of and clinical experiences with state-of-the-art devices. We are grateful to our industrial sponsors, whose support made this symposium possible.

The social program was memorable, and made full use of Venice's excitement, beauty and intricate topology. The time spent together, exploring, competing, talking, eating and drinking allowed the renewal of old friendships and the making of new ones.

The warmth of Italian hospitality is well-known to Computers in Cardiology, and Venice was no exception. We thank and congratulate our local hosts for an outstanding technical program, and a time of social and scientific enrichment!

Roger G Mark, MD, PhD
Board of Directors

1991 Computers in Cardiology
Venice, Italy

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