

In Memoriam Adolfo Franceschetti (1896-1968)

It is my sorrowful duty, as Secretary of the Permanent Committee for the International Congresses of Human Genetics and Editor of *Acta Geneticae Medicae et Gemellologiae*, to announce the untimely death of Professor Adolfo Franceschetti, Chairman of the former and member of the latter's Editorial Committee.

Born in Zurich in 1896, He won there His medical degree under Professor Vogt's guidance, later becoming his first assistant. In 1925 He joined the Basel Ophthalmological Clinic, completing there His postdoctoral career, culminating in 1933 with



the appointment as Professor of Ophthalmology and Director of the Ophthalmological Clinic in the University of Geneva.

Author of over 500 scientific papers, His main interests were in the areas of Ophthalmology and Genetics. In 1948 He founded in His Institute a Service of Medical Genetics, which won official University status in 1955 and remained there till 1966, when it became a separate Institute under Professor D. Klein.

His interest in twins having culminated in a famous medico-legal case involving an exchange of newborn babies, He attended the opening ceremony of the Mendel Institute (Rome, 1953), where He and D. Klein read the main paper on « Le dépistage des hétérozygotes » at the Ium Symposium Internationale Geneticae Medicae.

He was one of the promoters of the First International Congress of Human Genetics (Copenhagen, 1956) where He was elected a member of the Provisional Committee for future Congresses.

At the Second International Congress (Rome, 1961) He became a member of the Permanent Committee for the International Congresses of Human Genetics. At the Committee's first meeting (Paris, 1962) He was elected Vice-President.

At the Third International Congress (Chicago, 1966) He was elected to succeed Professor Kallmann as Chairman of the Permanent Committee.

Among Professor Franceschetti's many publications on Ophthalmological Genetics I wish to mention His three-volume work "Genetics and Ophthalmology" written with Waardenburg and Klein and the two-volume work « Les Hérédodégénérescences chorio-rétiniennes », written with François and Babel, as well as His important contribution to my "De Genetica Medica" on "Les Troubles Congénitaux du Sens Chromatique et leurs Relations avec les Aberrations Chromosomiques". His most recent work was the just-published contribution to the First International Congress on Neuro-Genetics and Neuro-Ophthalmology: « Les Gonochromosomes » (Karger, 1968).

Funeral ceremonies, attended by public and academic authorities and many friends and citizens, were held in Geneva on March 12; with Professor J. François I represented there the International Committee and His colleagues, students of Genetics throughout the world, to whom Professor Franceschetti left a legacy of high moral values and a bright example of clinical and scientific endeavour.

May His Family accept our tribute to His cherished memory.

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