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Foreword

The papers of this issue of 'Il Farmaco' are dedicated to the memory of Professor Piero Pratesi, who died on January 20th, 2002. Professor Pratesi was one of the people who shaped Medicinal Chemistry in Italy, as it is today. He contributed to this end via a series of crucial, sometimes bold scientific, didactic and editorial initiatives and among them was the foundation of IL FARMACO. A full and complete biography of Professor Pratesi, written by one of his former associates, Professor Luigi Villa, appeared in the March issue of this Journal.

The Italian Chemical Society-Division of Medicinal Chemistry, among other tributes to Professor Pratesi's memory, has instituted a new international prize: the 'Piero Pratesi Medal'. Professor Corwin Hansch was its

first recipient and the lecture "QSAR and the Role of Luck in Research" that he delivered on the occasion (Torino, Italy, June 2003) is reported in this issue. The papers collected here are further testimony to the esteem into which his contribution to the Italian Medicinal Chemistry is viewed and to the personal and scientific ties that Piero Pratesi established with the members of this scientific community.

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