

The Newsletter of the International Academy of Legal Medicine



Obituary

Professor Bruno Maria Altamura (1943–2001)

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We are sad to report that Prof. Bruno M. Altamura, Director of the Institute of Legal Medicine of the University of Trieste (Italy), died on 17th December 2001 at the age of 58.

Bruno M. Altamura was born in Pitigliano, near Florence. After the first degree in Medicine obtained at the University of Bari, he went to the School of Legal Medicine of Siena. A few years later, Bruno M. Altamura moved to Bari again, where he worked under the supervision of his masters, Prof. Mario Adamo and Prof. Antonio dell'Erba until 1985.

In that year, in fact, he was promoted to full university professor, came to Trieste and was appointed Director of the Institute of Legal Medicine. At the age of 42, he opened a new era in the Institute, encouraging students and co-workers to deal with the emerging fields of Forensic Medicine. His wide scientific interests ranged from thanatology to forensic entomology, from personal identification based on DNA typing to professional responsibility.

Enthusiastically and indefatigably studious of the discipline, he created a School of Legal Medicine which is held in esteem not only in Italy.

As President of the Academy of Legal Medicine "Il Ponte" (that he personally founded), he stimulated the co-operation among different branches of Medicine to improve the professional qualification of the medical assistants.

Moreover, he strove for the development of international scientific co-operation and he arranged two Alpe-Adria-Pannonia meetings.

His honesty and morality were undoubted and his scientific rigour was uncommon, but first of all, he was a good man, generous and patient with everyone who knocked at his door and that door was always open, especially for his pupils.

Prof. Bruno M. Altamura will be sorely missed by anyone who knew him. Our heartfelt condolences go to his widow and family.

Paolo Fattorini, Trieste
Francesco Introna Jr., Bari