

OBITUARY

Mario Piazza

Antonio Giampalmo**Pathologist of his and our time**

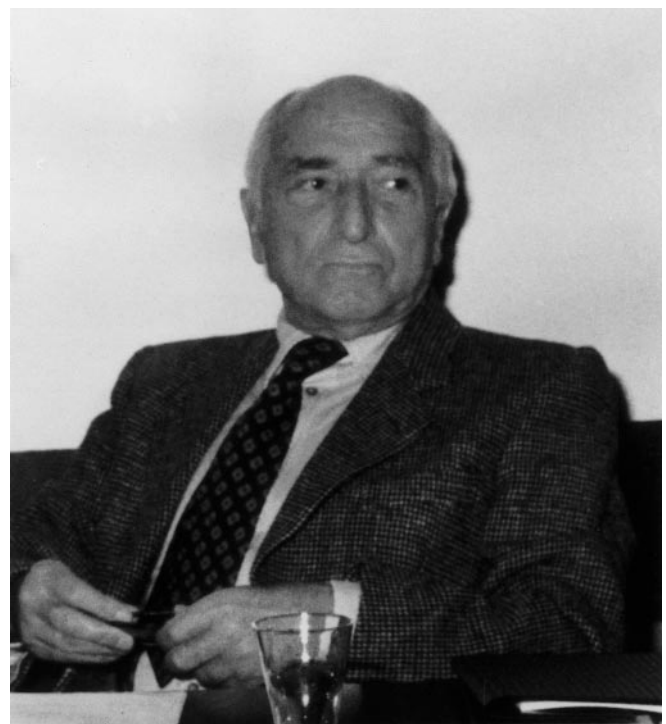
Antonio Giampalmo, Distinguished Professor of Pathological Anatomy at the University of Genoa, died in Genoa on 7 February 1998. His death is a great loss to Italian and European pathology.

He was born in Bari in 1912. After obtaining his medical degree at the University of Genoa, he went to Hamburg, Germany, to specialize under the guidance of Heine; he began his scientific research in the field of neuropathology with Bodechtel. During the postwar period he did research in Sweden with Bergstrand at the Karolinska Institute of Stockholm and then once again in Germany, in Düsseldorf with Meessen. In 1954 he won the competitive examination in Pathology and was called to the University of Pisa Medical School. In 1960 he was appointed Professor of Pathology by the University of Genoa Medical School, where he was Director of the Institute of Pathological Anatomy until 1982.

He was Director of the School of Specialization in Oncology and later of Pathology, for many years President of the College of the Italian Pathologists and of the Liguri Association of Pathologists (a group promoted by him), a member of the presidential body of the German Society of Pathology, and an Editor of *Virchow's Archiv* until 1987.

It is impossible, in this brief summary of Professor Antonio Giampalmo's career, to describe his rich and diversified scientific research, which touched all areas of pathological anatomy. This was common at the time; every reputable pathologist was "a tutto tondo", the term he applied to his renowned colleagues. In many fields he revealed brilliant intuition, anticipating pathologies that years later would be "discovered" by other pathologists. In his studies on the changes to the adrenal glands in various pathologic conditions (1947) there are important concepts that partly precede those of the Selye adaptation syndrome.

In the book on *Medical Nephropathies*, by Monastero, Giampalmo, Gigli and Giovanetti (1954), concepts



were anticipated (glomerulonephrosis) that electron microscopy would confirm many years later. In cardiovascular pathology, Giampalmo's original contributions are numerous: among these the pathokinetic classification of angiopathies (1958) is still current today; in the study of angiomas, angiomatosis and angiodysplasia one cannot help but refer to the clinical-anatomical patterns he outlined and hypoxic pulmonary artero-venous angiomatosis (1948–1950) is referred to, especially by German authors, as Giampalmo's disease. His study with Schoenmacker on the "aortization" of the lung in several congenital cyanotic heart diseases (1952), which was later "rediscovered" as "systematization" of the lung and the studies on fatty degeneration of the heart (1959) jointly with his pupil Bronzini stand out for importance

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and originality and are also current. In any study of the pathology of vascular malformations reference to admirable work of 1972 is obligatory. Giampalmo was among the first in Italy to take an interest in the pathomorphosis and pathology of treatment (1960, 1962, 1969), and his studies on the involutional and senile changes of various organs were original, especially with regard to the heart and vessels (1980, 1983, 1985, 1987).

Giampalmo's view on the close sympathy and the sequential and aetiopathogenetic links between lungs and kidneys was original and the fruit of decades of observation and study.

Gifted with an extensive and deep-rooted classical education, both artistic and literary, documented by wise short narrations and philosophical dialogues (*"L'Illusionista"* 1958), Giampalmo joined medicine and art together with brilliant contributions on the representations of pathologies in the art of the past (1992, 1994, 1995, 1996).

With Antonio Giampalmo one of the most representative pathologists of his and our time disappears, a true teacher, a man of the purest taste and exquisite sensibility.

His pupils, who are many, remember him with heartfelt thanks.