



Rendiconti
Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL
*Memorie e Rendiconti di Chimica, Fisica,
Matematica e Scienze Naturali*
142° (2024), Vol. V, fasc. 3, pp. 295-296
ISSN 0392-4130 • ISBN 978-88-98075-63-8

Concluding remarks¹

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Abstract – Growing up, Scouting taught me valuable principles like being useful and courteous. These guiding principles helped me throughout my life and career.

My family's support, especially my wife Clelia's, has been my pillar. My family's legacy, including my grandfather Ugo, has influenced me greatly. I've been fortunate in many aspects of my life, from family to career opportunities, and I worked hard to give back what I've received, driven by my passion for physics and its applications. This is the origin of my motto: "Physics is beautiful and useful".

My work in physics and hadron therapy has been a fulfilling journey. I'm thankful for collaborations and friendships that made a difference. I was blessed for all the people I have met, and for the experiences I have been given the chance to live.

Keywords: Principles, Physics, Family, Support, Scouting, Fortunate, Legacy, Blessed

Riassunto – Da giovane, lo scautismo mi ha insegnato principi preziosi come essere utile e cortese. Questi principi guida mi hanno aiutato lungo tutta la mia vita e carriera.

Il sostegno della mia famiglia, specialmente quello di mia moglie Clelia, è stato il mio pilastro. L'eredità della mia famiglia, compreso mio nonno Ugo, mi ha influenzato molto. Sono stato fortunato in molti aspetti della mia vita, dalla famiglia alle opportunità di carriera ed ho lavorato sodo per restituire ciò che ho ricevuto, guidato dalla mia passione per la fisica e le sue applicazioni. Questa è l'origine del mio motto: "La Fisica è bella e utile".

Il mio lavoro in fisica e adroterapia è stato un viaggio appagante. Sono grato per le collaborazioni e le amicizie che hanno fatto la differenza. Sono stato benedetto per tutte le persone che ho incontrato e le esperienze che mi hanno permesso di vivere.

Parole chiave: Principi, Fisica, Famiglia, Sostegno, Scautismo, Eredità, Benedetto

Thank you, dear Luciano, a lifelong friend. Thank you, Manuela, Marco and Domenico, for organising this, and thank you to all those who spoke. They exaggerated, but in these circumstances that is allowed, and we can forgive them.

Let me start by saying that I am extremely grateful to Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi and Consul General Nicoletta Piccirillo for being here today and for the very kind words.

¹ This peer reviewed article originates from contributions to the "Symposium for Ugo's 90 years" held at CERN (Geneva) on the 4th of April 2025 to celebrate the 90th birthday of Ugo Amaldi, member of the Accademia dei XL since 1992.

I was also very touched by the opening addresses by Director General Fabiola Gianotti, Professor Herwig Schopper and President Giuliano Amato.

To what the speakers have said I want to add an important aspect of my life as a boy, one that influenced me greatly and continues to do so today.

I was ten years old in August 1944, and the American troops had liberated Rome a few weeks earlier. My mother took me, and my dearest friend Franco, by the hand and led us to a school near our home, where a group of young people were reorganizing the Scout group which, like all other Italian Scout groups, had been banned by the Fascist regime. So I joined ASCI, the Italian Catholic Scout Association, and immediately began my training as a “Cub Scout”. I dedicated eleven years to Scouting, until the study of physics at the University prevented me from continuing as a Cub Scout leader.

During these years I absorbed the Scout spirit and, in particular, three tenets of the Scout Law:

- A Scout’s duty is to be useful and to help others.
- A Scout is courteous.
- A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.

These guiding principles were very helpful to me along the roads I travelled, and still are today.

I may add that those of you who know my motto “Physics is beautiful and useful” now also know from where the adjective “useful” comes.

The second topic I want to talk about is that I worked a lot over the years. I was often absent from home and Clelia reproached me for this. But I felt that I had to work very hard to give back, in some way, all that I have received. Because I have always been very fortunate, too fortunate.

Starting with my grandfather Ugo, a mathematician born 150 years ago, after whom I was named. His personality as a teacher and his deeply thought Christian view of the world have left an indelible imprint on me.

And then there are my two parents, strong and very different personalities, who worked with determination and enthusiasm all their life, showing their children and grandchildren what it means to love each other deeply and stay united in the difficult times of the war and of the long illness of my mother.

Clelia has been the pillar of my life; I sincerely thank Tord who showed us the photo taken at the honorary doctorate in Uppsala. It was a magical moment. She was 55 and I was 60...

During the 64 years of our common life I was work-

ing a lot, perhaps too much, but I was also telling myself that her active, and always generous, dedication to others compensated for the time I was spending on fundamental physics, a passion which she did not understand.

In 1959 we met by chance, in a place where we should not have been. She was 20 years old, and I was 24. When we got engaged, three months later, I realised that she would have liked to marry a medical doctor. I made up for it when, at 57, I decided to leave the DELPHI spokespersonship to devote myself to hadron therapy: I thus became a medical physicist, not too far from a medical doctor, and Clelia said, “You have returned to your first love”, that is, to the love of radiation physics, to which I had devoted the dozen years I initially spent at the Physics Laboratory of the ISS.

I have been very fortunate for my brother Francesco, who recently left us, and my sister Daniela, who is here today, and for my eight grandchildren, many of whom are also here. Others have been following us from Brussels, New York and Dubai. Three great-grandchildren are home, probably already sleeping.

I was fortunate because in the 1980s I started to take care of the physics books for high schools, initiated by my parents 30 years before, which I worked on intensively. The “Amaldis” have been linked with the Enriques family, owners of the Zanichelli publisher, for four generations: at the end of the 19th century Federico Enriques was the Maestro of my grandfather Ugo. I am truly grateful for their presence. And the books would not have had the success they still have without the continuous care of Zanichelli’s collaborators; many of them are also here. I only mention Giuseppe Ferrari, who was very young when he was called upon to take care of the “Amaldis” at the end of the 1980s.

I was fortunate to have had Gaudenzio Vanolo and Maria Di Rosa close to me at TERA; without them we would not have reached the year 2000, a lucky moment, when Umberto Veronesi, a great scientist and surgeon, became Minister of Health and allocated the first 20 million for the construction of the National Centre for Oncological Hadron-therapy. The TERA team of 25 was ready and in 2003 it was passed on to the new CNAO Foundation, under the calm, firm and competent leadership of Sandro Rossi.

I have used the adjective “fortunate” too many times, but I should have said ‘blessed’ because that is what I feel deep in my heart. You are all part of this blessing.

GRAZIE A TUTTI