



Antonio Secchi, a teacher, founder and a friend.

Antonio Secchi passed away on September 10th 2016.

Antonio Secchi was one of the most distinguished members of the International Ocular Inflammation Society (IOIS) and one of its founders. He was Professor in Padova for more than 20 years and had successfully achieved major accomplishments in setting up the scientific study of uveitis in Italy and Europe, with many teaching activities and organizing major congresses in northern Italy and in cooperation with diverse global scientific societies on ocular immunology and inflammation.

However, for me the most important part of the life of Antonio Secchi was his role in the foundation of the International Ocular Inflammation Society. The first meeting of what was going to be later the IOIS took place in Alicante in 1990 and Tony was part of the scientific committee and attended it as a distinguished speaker. Tony Secchi was an outstanding teacher and he taught in depth about ocular immunology, a topic in which he had major insight. His friendship with David Benezra, Phuc Lehoang, Bob Nussenblatt and others made him form part in this most distinguished group in which the modern diagnosis and treatment of uveitis has been based today. Later on, in the meeting that the newly founded society had in Leronne hotel in Jerusalem, his role in the society consolidated and he was one of the major officers of the society, being the IOIS Chairman. Later he chaired and organized the 7th IOIS meeting in Padova in 2003, which was an outstanding success.

Tony Secchi was a very warm Italian friend. He and his family always had that distinguished touch of those who have been educated to welcome foreigners and bring people together. He was always in a good mood and had the talent to be in conversations taking the best from everybody. His most positive attitude and his hard working personality made the rest.

We shall miss Tony Secchi a lot and we shall miss him as a vivid reference of the recent fundamental history of ocular immunology and inflammation to which he believed and belonged. We acknowledge his role in medical education in uveitis and immunology in Europe and indeed his contribution to the creation, strength and development of the International Ocular Inflammation Society.

He will always remain in our memories...



From Right to Left : David BenEzra, Shigeaki Ohno, Antonio Secchi and Jorge Alio