

Laudatio for the Fahraeus Lecture

Fahraeus Awardee – Professor Sandro Forconi, MD

Laudatio held during the 12th Conference of the European Society for Clinical Hemorheology, Sofia, 24th June 2003

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Ladies, Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and Friends,

Three years ago in Rouen, I have had the great pleasure to introduce the 10th awardee of the Fahraeus medal, my friend Gustav Born. Today, I am honoured to present the medal to Sandro Forconi. After Shu Chien, John Dormandy, Holger Schmid-Schönbein, myself, Tullio Di Perri, John Stuart, Herb Meiselman, Albrecht Ehrly, Siegfried Witte and Gustav Born, Sandro is the 11th awardee of this scientific award which was created in 1980 after the first European symposium of Nancy in 1979 and a concertation between Shu Chien, John Dormandy, Holger Schmid-Schönbein and myself. As you know the choice of the winner is, after a two steps secret ballot, in the hands of a panel of European Scientists who represent the different European societies in the field of Hemorheology.

The 11th awardee, Sandro Forconi, was born in Siena in 1938. He defended his medical thesis in 1962 and his diploma of cardiology in Pavia in 1964. He presented also a PhD thesis in medical pathology in 1969. Presently Sandro Forconi is full professor of Internal Medicine at the Medical Faculty of the University of Siena. He is also director of the Internal, Cardiovascular and Geriatric Department and director of the Graduate School of Internal Medicine.

His career is very rich and it is difficult for me to summarise it. For his researches, he received many awards: First scientific prizes of Siena University in 1974 and 1975, Arbor Award of the University of Toronto in 1998. Besides he is president of the Siena-Toronto Center, Caduceo d'oro in Medicine in 2002 and, in this year 2003, Fahraeus Medal Awardee.

Sandro is also member of many scientific societies in internal medicine, geriatrics, vascular pathology and cardiology. He is member of the European Society for Clinical Haemorheology since her foundation and president since 2000, after the 10th European symposium in Rouen.

He was also organiser of many national and international conferences in cardiovascular field like: symposium on Ischemia in Roma in 1977, National Congress of Microcirculation in Siena in 1981, President of the scientific committee of the 4th European Conference on Clinical Hemorheology in Siena in 1985, Chairman of the meeting of the Italian Society of Vascular Pathology in Siena in 1989.



Jean-François Stoltz and Sandro Forconi.

During his career, he participated at many editorial boards such *Minerva Angiologica*, *Aging*, *Focus on Endothelium and Vascular Diseases*, *Cardiologia nella pratica clinica*, *Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation*.

During the past 30 years, Sandro published more than 200 full papers, 80 proceedings or chapters of books, 380 abstracts and 350 invited lectureships.

This is Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Colleagues and Friends, a summary in figure of the scientific activities of Sandro Forconi. I am honoured and glad to present him today the 11th Fahraeus medal. This medal was designed by my friend Al Copley in 1980 for the second symposium in London and presented for the first time to Shu Chien. One face is a representation of microcirculation and the other face a drawing of Robin Fahraeus with the name of the awardee.

References

- A.L. Copley, Notes on the Fahraeus Medal, *Clinical Hemorheology* **1** (1981), 415–417.
- A.L. Copley, Notes on a line drawing for the Fahraeus Award, *Clinical Hemorheology* **3** (1983), ix–x.
- A.L. Copley, The Robin Fahraeus Memorial Lecture: Robin Fahraeus – The scientist and the person, *Clinical Hemorheology* **9** (1989), 395–433.