



Editorial Note

Membrane Science and Engineering. A Tribute to the Prof. Drioli's Pioneering Vision

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Guest Editors

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When we were invited to serve as guest Editors of a Special Issue of *Journal of Membrane Science and Research* dedicated to Prof. Enrico Drioli, we felt really honored. As Researchers at the Institute on Membrane Technology of the Italian National Research Council (ITM-CNR), we know Prof. Drioli since '90s: he fascinated us by his personality characterized by an extraordinary intelligence and unbridled passion for work.

It is difficult to summarize in few lines the Prof. Drioli's career as recognized worldwide Ambassador of Membrane Science and Technology. He devoted his life to the development of membrane science and engineering starting from early '70s. His pioneering work has strongly contributed to the worldwide growth, spread and dissemination of membrane science and technology in a broad range of applications.

Prof. Drioli graduated in Chemistry at University of Naples in 1965 and he was appointed as a *Professor* of Chemistry and Electrochemistry at the School of Engineering of the University of Naples (1968-1982). In 1981, he moved to the new University of Calabria and he was appointed as a *Full Professor* (1981-2011), Dean of the School of Engineering (1982-1985) and Emeritus Professor since 2012. In 1982, he cofounded and he was the President of the European Membrane Society (EMS) during the period 1982-1998. Since 1999, he is the honorary President of the EMS. In 1993, he funded the Institute on Membranes and Chemical Reactors of the Italian National Research Council, which became Institute on Membrane Technology (CNR-ITM) in 2001. He was the Director of the Institute during the period 1993-2008, and in 2011 he was appointed Founding Director.



Fig. 1. Alberto, Alessandra, Alfredo and Enrico in 2010.



Fig. 2. China-EU Workshop 2012 in Weihai, China, 2012.

Among the long list of activities devoted to Membrane Science, it is worth to mention he is the author or co-author of more than 800 publications, more than 20 patents in the field of membrane science and technology and co-editor of more than 19 books. He is also a well-known organizer of many events on membrane operations, including bilateral Workshops and international Conferences, where the high-quality scientific presentations always take place in a familiar atmosphere, encouraging discussion and exchange of ideas, favouring scientific collaborations among delegates.

He received numerous recognitions and awards from all around the world: the Doctorate Honoris Causa in Chemistry and Chemical Technology from Russian Academy of Science (1992) and the University Paul Sabatier of Toulouse (2009), the Richard Maling Barrer Prize by European Membrane Society (2011), the International Cooperation Honor Award by the Membrane Industry Association of China (2005).

He is also Member and Advisor of several organisations and working groups of important Centers and Institutes: Member and Moderator of the Research Advisory Council of the Middle East Desalination Research Center, Oman, Muscat (since May 1997); Honorary Member of the A. V. Topchiev Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow (since 1999); Member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Grand Water Research Institute (since 2004); Member of the International Advisory Board of the State Key Laboratory of Catalysis, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences (since 2007); Member of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) for the KAUST Water Desalination and Reuse (WDR) Center (since 2010).

In this framework, this Special Issue would like to collect letters and

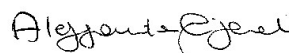
research highlights of eminent scientists/friends who cooperated with Enrico Drioli for the growing of membrane science & technology. Our sincere thanks to all contributors.

We tried to keep this Special Issue secret until its publication, as our surprise to Prof. Drioli, who transmitted us the passion for membrane operations with his outstanding contribution. We still thank him for continuing his action in promoting the key role of membranes for a more sustainable world.

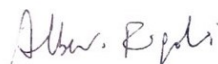
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