



Alberto Zanchetti 27.07.1926 - 25.03.2018

John Chalmers

Alberto Zanchetti was a remarkable man, with huge intelligence and capacity, so many talents, so much warmth and humanity. An immediately likeable and loveable man! Professor Zanchetti died unexpectedly, after a short illness, while fully engaged in life and science until that final illness. But he had reached the age of 91 in excellent health and with full 'joie de vivre'.

Born in Parma, he graduated in Medicine there before moving to Pisa to work under Professor Moruzzi, the world famous neurophysiologist, and made major contributions before leaving to join Professor Cesare Bartorelli, Chief of the Institute of Internal Medicine in Sienna. Here he made his mark on the role of thiazide diuretics in the treatment of hypertension and then followed Bartorelli to Milan where his career bloomed and over time he rose to become the Director of the Centro di Fisiologia Clinica e Ipertensione, Ospedale Maggiore, Università di Milano, and then some 20 years later, the Scientific Director of the Istituto Auxologico Italiano, Milano and Emeritus Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Milan. One of his major legacies lies in all the students he mentored over many years.

Alberto Zanchetti was a most accomplished scientist and a shining beacon in our field of hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. He astounded us time and time again at scientific meetings by his encyclopaedic knowledge, encompassing the whole field of cardiovascular medicine, and it often seemed, all fields beyond. And almost as often, by his evident pleasure in talking about these topics! And he and his colleagues continued to produce fine science, with a stream of illuminating meta-analyses in the past few years.

But Alberto was so much more than just the scientist. He was the complete renaissance man, with a passion for, and a deep appreciation of the arts, of music, of history and particularly of the classics. He amazed us with the breadth and depth of his knowledge and understanding of fields outside of our usual endeavours. And in his heyday, he delighted in making sure that our Milan meetings, both ISH & ESH, exposed us to the best music, be it opera at La Scala, or Bach at Santa Maria delle Grazie, and to the finest paintings and sculptures before the meeting dinners, at a splendid art gallery or museum.

One of Alberto Zanchetti's greatest contributions has been as an interpreter, critic and distiller of science and of the latest trends in our field of hypertension and cardiovascular diseases. He always had a rare capacity to extract the essential message of the latest paper or presentation, and that has been one of his core strengths as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Hypertension, a

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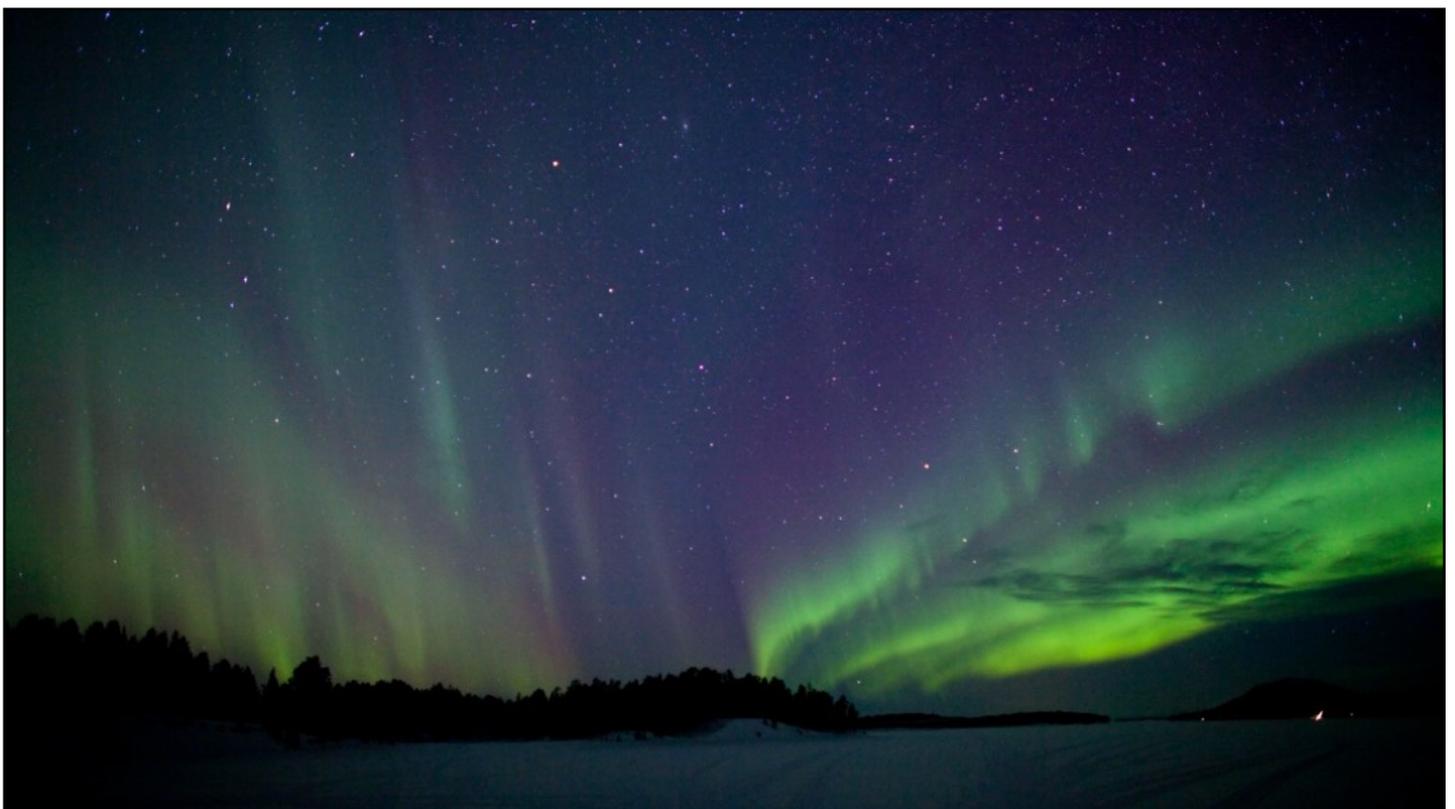
A TRIBUTE TO ALBERTO ZANCHETTI

task he has accomplished with great distinction for around 20 years. It has also been a key for his contributions to so many guidelines, first of the WHO-ISH and later of the ESH/ESC. Another of his great contributions was his role in the birth and development of the ISH and later of the ESH.

As would be expected, Professor Zanchetti won many awards and honours, including the Marzotto Prize for Culture and Science in 1961, the Award for International Achievement of the AHA in 1977, the Franz Volhard Lecture and Award of the ISH in 1986, the Henri Denolin Lecture of the European Society of Cardiology in 1991 and the Riva-Rocci Award of the Italian Society of Hypertension in 1997, and he rose to be President of the ISH, of the ESH and of the European Society of Clinical Investigation. He was in much demand by societies around the world as keynote speaker and he was often honoured with Honorary Membership or Fellowship of National Societies of Hypertension as well as Honorary Doctorates of prestigious universities.

But all those achievements and attributes pale into insignificance beside the human qualities that made Alberto Zanchetti such a well-loved man in our field. It was these human qualities that made him stand out and sought after by all! He was equally warm and approachable with the young and shy research student, the experienced clinician or researcher, the industry representative in the exhibition hall and with our spouses and families. He was in so many ways "pater familias" for the world of hypertension, certainly for those in the ISH and ESH. His passing leaves a very big hole but thinking of Alberto brings to mind many happy and inspiring memories. Vale Alberto Zanchetti.

John Chalmers
chalmers@georgeinstitute.org.au



Nordic lights, Arjeplog, Sweden. Photo: Christer Andersson.