

Note from the Editors

Monaldi Arch Chest Dis 2007; 67: 1, 3.

In this issue of *Monaldi Archives for Chest Diseases - Pulmonary Series*, we publish a review on respiratory involvement of patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) by Chetta *et al.* [1]. It is our pleasure to publish also an Editorial on the same topic by Mario Melazzini [2]. Mario is a good friend of long standing, an Oncologist, currently Chief of the Oncology Clinic in the Maugeri Institute of Pavia and, himself, for almost four years, an ALS patient. He is the President of the Italian Association of ALS Patients (AISLA) and a member of the Italian Ministry of Health ALS Commission. He is the beloved husband of Daniela and devoted father of three children. He is keeping up with his work in the Clinic, but has added to this activity an impressive amount of work related to the advocacy for ALS patients, involving meetings throughout Italy, Europe and America, participation in National and International study groups and Committees, and even listening to ALS patients in shift hours on the help-line of AISLA!

How can Mario be so many things at the same time? Looking at him and at all his achievements one has to believe in 'super heroes'! How else could you explain such a smooth transition from the role of M.D. to that of ALS patient? More importantly, in this difficult part of his life Mario is teaching us all, through his unstinting dedication of time and energy for the sake of ALS patients, a priceless lesson: the value of commitment to a noble cause.

He is a shining example to us all and we are proud to have him as an author of *Monaldi Archives*. Let's hope that his story and efforts will help the ALS community to achieve their goals. And let's hope also that all of us, health professionals, will always remember that we are curing or, better, caring for human beings and not just for their diseases.

Grazie, Mario

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for Chest Diseases
Pulmonary Series*

References

1. Chetta A, Aiello M, Tzani P, Olivieri D. Assessment and monitoring of ventilatory function and cough efficacy in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Monaldi Archives for Chest Diseases - Pulmonary Series* 2007; 67: 43-52.
2. Melazzini M. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis viewed from a patient's perspective. *Monaldi Archives for Chest Diseases - Pulmonary Series* 2007; 67: 4-5.



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