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Editorial

The international Congress of Orvieto: great science and passion devoted to humanity.

Francesco Bottaccioli – SIPNEI Honorary President

The great atmosphere that permeated the Congress is shown by the pictures (Rocco Casaluci) published in our website www.sipnei.it and certainly by the Congress' programme. The protagonist of this event was great science, great because it is the science which is nurtured with desire of knowledge. A science that does not build fences among disciplines but, on the contrary, demolishes them in its efforts to establish a continuous and true dialogue among the different standpoints about the same object: the human being. It might have sounded a conceited risk conceiving the idea of shifting from one kind of language to another, as for example switching from psychology to immunology and then to endocrinology and sociology or from Italian to English. Fortunately there were qualified translators as well as most of the Congress professional participants were multilingual and able to understand and communicate using the different specialized languages required by the modern knowledge. By describing the relinquishing of the specialisms and the microparadigms which support them, Thomas Kuhn was invoking the coming of bilingual scientists who are knowledgeable in the different scientific languages and therefore able to dissolve the barriers among disciplines. The Congress in Orvieto, conceived and organized by SIPNEI and SIPNEI itself are a living example of this project combining knowledge and synergy among specialists. At the same time we are a living example of how it is possible to act with freedom even without the financial support of the same old established sponsors. As a matter of fact the Congress was funded by the Congress participants with their enrolment fees, by the excellent speakers (both Italians and foreigners) who participated for free and by the SIPNEI members with their voluntary work.

Great science does not mean *big science*, the one grown together with *big pharma*. You will certainly remember how it had to look like a winning couple. Finally science was thinking and acting big: big projects like defeating cancer or decodifying the "book of life" of the human genome. In these current times the only big thing left is the profit growth rate of the pharmaceutical industries accrued to few hands and short of real innovation. However there will not be innovation if the protagonists of research together with the protagonists of health care will not try to experience a knowledge which is free from private interests and it is only directed to the wellbeing of humanity. I believe this is the most effective way for health professionals whether they are researchers or practitioners to pursue their own personal happiness.