

## GLAUCO TOCCHINI-VALENTINI

In 1959 after my laurea at University Rome La Sapienza I definitively broke with my supervisor since, contrary to him, I was interested in producing ribodi- and tri-phosphates to produce RNA. For this reason I applied for an Euratom fellowship to spend in Brachet's lab in Bruxelles.

Unfortunately at that moment he had no space in his laboratory and he suggested me to apply to go to Karl Zimmer's lab at the Kernreaktor in Karlsruhe. In this way I had to become a radiobiologist and came in touch with two persons who changed my life, Adriano Buzzati-Traverso e Luca Cavalli-Sforza. They were at the time actively interacting with Zimmer. At the end of my fellowship Zimmer wrote a very positive letter to Adriano, who contacted me and introduced me to Franco Graziosi, another person who had an enormous impact on my scientific life. I was engaged together with Franco, with Peter Geiduschek, Robert Haselkorn and Sam Weis at the Univ. of Chicago and we utilized the DNA of bacteriophage alpha from Tiber's water to produce a number of papers on asymmetrical transcription. Since then I have repeatedly seen Luca who has always encouraged and supported my research. I also remember him as Director of the International Laboratory of Genetics and Biophysics in Naples in 1968, when he succeeded Adriano. I am immensely grateful to Luca and very proud of his friendship.