

Tullio Di Lella: 1944-2002. A brief biography



On 4th November 2002, during a meeting at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Naples, Professor Tullio Di Lella was suddenly taken ill and passed away shortly after. Born in 1944, he graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 1966 and immediately afterwards was appointed lecturer at what was then known as the Institute of Livestock Science. After passing through the various stages of a university career, in 1986 he was appointed full professor for the G0601 group, and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Naples invited him to take up the Chair of Animal Nutrition and Diet.

Tullio Di Lella was coordinator of various research groups belonging to programmes funded by the National Research Council, the Ministry of Scientific Research and the Ministry of Agriculture, to study feed digestion capacity in pigs, as well as the protein and energy value of feeds and diets for ruminants (buffalo and sheep in particular). Aware of the enormous importance of gaining in-depth knowledge of the chemical and nutritional characteristics of animal feed for the purpose of formulating sound diets for livestock, he had striven to reorganise and re-launch the laboratory for feed analysis, recently refurbishing it with more modern equipment. Proof of his scientific commitment is the large number of publications (over 130) to his name.

From 1996 to July 2002 he was Director of the Specialisation School in Animal Diet, where he had lectured ever since the school was founded. He was a member of the Scientific Association of Animal Production, being also on its Board of Administration. He was a member of the Scientific Committee of the journal *Zootenica e Nutrizione Animale* and also of the journal *Bubalus bubalis*.

After working as his colleague for 30 years, I always appreciated his great ability both in setting up research work with academic rigour and in solving the innumerable practical problems that cropped up. He showed great skill in designing solutions to the most complex of organisational problems, while he displayed unexceptionable intellectual honesty, for which he was much appreciated both in faculty and university circles. Indeed, he was elected to the Development Board for Life Sciences and Technology, a joint body with members from the Faculties of Medicine and Surgery, Agriculture, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine of Naples University, and contributed to the work of the board with considerable commitment and enthusiasm. A few moments prior to his death, he had addressed the faculty members on the problem of building the new faculty premises, outlining with his customary brevity, clarity and masterly incisiveness the solution to several problems.

Tullio's untimely departure leaves all of us at the Department of Livestock Science and Food Safety with a deep sense of loss and sadness. We therefore wish to remember him to the many of you who sent messages of condolence, judging from which he was both well known and highly esteemed.

Napoli, November 4, 2002

Vincenzo Piccolo