



**Mauro Emilio Martignoni,
1926-2000**

Dr. Mauro Martignoni passed away on 26 April, 2000 in Albuquerque, New Mexico after a very brief illness. Born on 30 October 1926, in Lugano, Switzerland, Mauro is survived by his wife, Marie Louise di Suvero; sons, Enrico Angiolo of France and Nevada, and Matteo Lorenzo of India and California; sister, Lorenza of Lugano; and their Families. Memorial Masses have been offered in New Mexico, Switzerland, and India. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the NW New Mexico Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Onate Hall, Room 131, Albuquerque, NM 87131, USA.

Mauro obtained his elementary, high school and undergraduate education in Switzerland and his graduate training at the University of California at Berkeley and at the Swiss Federal Institute at Zurich. He was proficient in English, Italian, French and German and had a fair knowledge of Spanish. He came to study in the laboratory of the late Dr. E.A. Steinhaus in 1950. The death of his father forced him to return to Switzerland, but not before meeting his bride-to-be Marie Louise di Suvero. Following their marriage, they lived in Switzerland until 1956, during which time Mauro earned his doctorate.

In 1956, he accepted a research position with Dr. Steinhaus and brought his young family back to California. Mauro confined his research in insect pathology at the University of California at Berkeley until 1965 when I was most fortunate to recruit him for a research team at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Forest Service, USDA on the campus of Oregon State University.

A notable significant contribution to science was his painstaking, pioneering efforts in obtaining the data necessary to register the Douglas-fir tussock moth virus. This virus was registered in 1976 and was the first virus ever registered for use in a forest ecosystem. Registration necessitated the design of novel protocols and experiments and the accumulation of data not then available to science. The diversified data, as can be seen by the titles of his publications (e.g. viral isolation, identification, production, purification, standardization, safety to non-targets,

environmental stability and field effectiveness) was primarily obtained, summarized and collated for submission to the US Environmental Protection Agency by Mauro.

He became the highest ranking scientist in the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in 1974. Mauro remained at the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory until retirement in 1986. In 1977, our research unit received the USDA Superior Service Group Honor Award for outstanding team effort in research on the Douglas-fir tussock moth. Mauro has more than 100 publications in Invertebrate Pathology. Most of his research has been with insect viruses, more specifically and in later years, on insect viruses of caterpillar pests of forests.

Mauro retired to Albuquerque, NM where he continued to support the field of insect pathology and the SIP. He developed an extensive reprint collection which he donated to the University of New Mexico. He remained active as a consultant right up to his untimely death. While I valued Mauro's scientific expertise, it was as a personal friend that he was most important to me. That friendship began in 1950 in the Steinhaus laboratory and through our professional association and the twenty years since my retirement. Mauro and his wife, Lu, have actively cultivated this friendship since our retirements.

Mauro was a member of Sigma X, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society for Microbiology, American Society of Virology (Charter Member), Entomological Society of America, Schweizerische Entomologische Gesellschaft, and a founding member of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology.

He received many honors, awards and grants for distinguished research in insect pathology, but he was most proud of becoming an Honorary Member of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology. After receiving this honor, he wrote "The news that the membership of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology elected me an Honorary Member, was reason for elation, humbleness, and reflection. Elation because I am proud of being among those few who have received this honor....being in the company of these distinguished scientists is clearly a humbling experience....Reflection, too: this rare honor usually comes at the end of one's long journey..." [Editor's note...the full text of Mauro's letter was published in the November 1994 SIP Newsletter 26(3) p 33].

Mauro is a founding member of SIP and was, in fact, a member of the first organizing committee that established SIP. Together with Art Heimpel, he prepared the first draft of the SIP Constitution and Bylaws and later chaired the Revision Committee. He also served the SIP in many other ways including acting as technical advisor in the establishment of the Journal of Invertebrate Pathology, SIP Trustee, Chairman of the SIP Division Committee which prepared the first draft of the Divisional Bylaws, member of the Virus Subcommittee of the Culture Collection Committee, and he prepared lists of books published in the area of insect pathology (published as supplements in the SIP Newsletter), and actively participated in several SIP meetings as session and program chair. In addition, Mauro has made considerable societal contributions in drafting and revising the "Abridged Glossary of Terms used in Invertebrate Pathology", the "Catalog of Viral Diseases of Insects, Mites and Ticks" and the computer-based fully indexed "Bibliography of Viral Diseases of Insects and other Arthropods."

Mauro has made significant contributions to invertebrate pathology as both teacher and researcher. As a teacher and advisor, Mauro participated in developing the first formalized curriculum of insect pathology in the USA and in training some of the first "professionally

recognized" insect pathologists. He taught and trained Insect Pathologists at both the University of California, Berkeley and Oregon State University.

As a teacher, he was a demanding person, who insisted on the basics. He had a love of history, language, and the arts. Although the students at Berkeley felt that he was always serious, he possessed a wonderful sense of humor. When Dr. Steinhaus was leaving Berkeley for the new campus at Irvine, a photo album was assembled as a going away present. Each person was taken in a serious and a "gag" pose. Mauro portrayed Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde in a series of three photographs and demonstrated his sense of humor.

As a major professor he was an excellent mentor, a good and kind human being and above all-a Humanist. As a professor of insect pathology at the University of California at Berkeley, he taught formal courses in insect pathology, advanced insect pathology, and seminars in insect pathology, and advised student graduate-research and reviewed theses in insect pathology, entomology, and parasitology.

Mauro was a warm friend to many in and outside his scientific field. We shall all treasure his memory.

Submitted by Clarence G. "Hank" Thompson, June 2, 2000 with additions by Carlo Ignoffo and Martin Shapiro

Through contacts with Jim Harper prior to the 2000 SIP meetings in Guanajuato, Mauro Martignoni's wife, Marie Louise (Lou), indicated that Mauro, a Founding Member and Honorary Member of the Society, intended to leave funds for support of students to travel to the annual meetings of the Society to present their research results. Following the Mexico meetings, Lou Martignoni sent Jim checks totaling \$5,000. Mauro's will indicated that this was to provide a \$500 award per year for 10 years to support one student per year. A report on the award, including the awardee's name, home institution, and presentation title is to be provided to Lou and her sons, Enrico and Matteo, following each meeting. The award was to be called the "**Mauro E. Martignoni Student Paper Award**". Through the generosity of many others, this amount was significantly increased and set aside as an endowment to support an annual award.