The Interuniversity Institute of Myology (iim)

The Interuniversity Institute of Myology (iim) has been formally approved in late Autumn 2003 by the University of Chieti Board of Directors. Many Italian Myologists, from Italian Universities that excel in Myology Research, recognized iim and its potential for international collaboration and joined coming from: Università degli Studi di Chieti, Università degli Studi di Brescia, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Università degli Studi di Messina, Università degli Studi di Milano, Università degli Studi di Padova, Università degli Studi di Pavia, Università degli Studi di Perugia, Università degli Studi di Roma 'La Sapienza', Università degli Studi di Siena.

As Acting Director, Prof. Giorgio Fanò hosted on January 27-29, 2004 The First Official Meeting of the Italian Myologists in Val Fondillo, one of the many interesting sites of the Abruzzi National Park, the first Natural Park in Italy.

After spending a full day in mutual exchange of information and activity planning, the Council of the iim has been elected among the iim Members, which are distributed among four Units:

Muscle Damage Unit

Experimental Models

Molecular Myology

Structure&Function

The Council Members are: U. Carraro, Chairman of the Muscle Damage Unit, and G. Fanò and A. Uncini, Delegates; A. Musarò, Chairman of the Experimental Models Unit, and G. Mazzoleni and C. Reggiani, Delegates; P. Bruni, Chairman of the Molecular Myology Unit, and V. Sorrentino and G. Cecchi, Delegates; F. Protasi, Chairman of the Structure&Function Unit and F. Trimarchi and R. Bottinelli, Delegates.

The iim Council elects Prof. Giorgio Fanò Director of the Institute. He proposes Ugo Carraro as Vice-Director. Pompeo Volpe will act as one of the two Delegates of the Muscle Damage Unit. Both of them accept the duties. The Director suggests to offer two of the seats of the Council to Aldo Di Benedetto, M.D., Abruzzii National Park Director, and to dott. Franco Paeselli, the SIM President. The iim Council approves.

After open discussion, the iim Members approve that the aims of the Institute during next year will be:
1. to define criteria for admission of new members (and confirmation of the founder members);
2. to identify the curriculum of a Master in Myology by organizing small meetings, topic courses and by exchanging teachers among existing Italian Doctorates;
3. to identify a few major research activities of the iim.

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The Council also approves, with minor changes, the criteria for granting the Young Researcher Grant. The unusual role as referee of all the applicants is accepted after some discussion.

The third day of the Meeting is spent in research presentations. Bottinelli, Lombardi, Musarò, Protasi and Sorrentino discuss their laboratory main projects and results. During the General Discussion Pompeo Volpe and Antonio Musarò suggest the topic Aging as the common Research Project of iim for the next three years. All iim Members approve and congratulate Prof. Giorgio Fanò for such a successful First Meeting of the Italian Myologists.

Ugo Carraro