

Oskar Schindler obituary



Prof. Dr. med. Oskar Schindler

With the passing away of Prof. Oskar Schindler, a beacon of world phoniatics went out.

His basic specialist training was Otorhinolaryngology, obtaining specialization in 1964 at the University of Turin. Since 1962, however, he always dedicated himself to the study of human communication in the audiological, phoniatic and speech therapy fields.

A great work of conceptuality and operativeness as well as international contacts led him to found and promote together with Prof P.Biesalski, A. Cveic and A.Kittel, the European Union of Phoniaticians (UEP) in 1971, of which he was elected President some years later, in 1990, during the Salsomaggiore international meeting, which he organized.

His great passion for research, the impressive scientific production as well as the 360 ° vision of Phoniatics and physiopathology of human communication, have made him a point of reference for Italian, European and international Phoniaticians. He truly believed in speech therapy by promoting and regulating it.

In Italy, he was the promoter of studies on swallowing disorders both in the phoniatics and speech therapy fields.

He held numerous scientific, professional and academic positions; in 1981, he became first Associate professor of Phoniatics at the University of Turin and then, in 2001, Full Professor of Phoniatics and Audiology in the same University.

Man of great values whose modesty and noble character always was proportional to his culture.

I remember with admiration his constant presence at our national and international Phoniatics congresses, and I well remember that he was the first to enter the conference halls and the last to leave, not only as a speaker but also as a listener, a demonstration of his boundless and ageless love for the phoniatic disciplines!

Always ready to encourage the youngest and to welcome all colleagues and friends with his unmistakable smile and his jokes.

A true Man of Science, able to transmit notable teachings of the art of which he was a master.. but also a lovely husband, father and grandfather, totally devoted to his family.

Our hearts go out to his noble wife, his sons Antonio and Giovanni, and all his family. From all friends, colleagues and admirers, our deepest condolences.

We will miss the Man ... we will miss the great Professor but, most of all, I will miss my great Friend.

Umberto Barillari