

## Obituary: Professor Arturo Falaschi

The Human Frontier Science Program Organization is greatly saddened by the sudden death of Prof. Arturo Falaschi on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. Arturo was a member of the HFSP Council of Scientists from 1996-2001, serving as Chair of the Council for two years from 2000-2001. This was a time of great change for HFSP following the appointment of Torsten Wiesel as Secretary General and the introduction of many program initiatives. Arturo led the discussions at the Council of Scientists with great energy and imagination. He contributed substantially to the transformation of HFSP that occurred during this period, being instrumental in the reorganization of the scientific programs by championing the merging of the traditional neuroscience and molecular biology committees.



Arturo Falaschi had a distinguished scientific career in the field of DNA replication. After postdoctoral training with Nobel Laureates Har Gobind Khorana in Wisconsin and Arthur Kornberg at Stanford, he returned to Italy to the Institute of Genetics of the CNR (the Italian National Research Council) at the University of Pavia, where he was later appointed as Director of the CNR Institute for Biochemical and Evolutionary Genetics and then Director of the CNR National Project for Genetic Engineering. In 1987 he became Head of the Trieste component of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). From 1989-2004 he was Director-General of the ICGEB and remained associated with the Centre as Head of the ICGEB Molecular Biology Laboratory in Pisa. He also served as a member of the Executive Committee of the CNR.

Arturo had a strong commitment to the global scientific endeavour. Apart from his long association with the ICGEB with its emphasis on advanced research and training related to the needs of the developing world, he was Rector of the International Centre for Science and High Technology of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (ICS-UNIDO), Coordinator of the Graduate School of Molecular Genetics at the International School of Advanced Studies (SISSA) and Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific International Molecular Biology Network.

Those of us who had the pleasure and privilege to work with him knew Arturo as a generous and gracious colleague, whose dedication to international science was illustrated by his broad participation in international organizations, as well as his unflinching dedication to the HFSP.

Arturo will not only be remembered for his exceptional scientific contributions, which he sustained on the highest level for more than four decades, but also for his enormous and outstanding efforts to carry the message of modern biology to the developing world, i.e. through his leadership in establishing the ICGEB, in Trieste and Delhi, respectively. We lost a wonderful colleague and friend. Our thoughts are with his family and close colleagues.