



TOWN OF CARPI

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

The Collegium Ramazzini and the Town of Carpi are proud to recognize

MARJA I. SORSA

as Ramazzini Award recipient and Ramazzini Lecturer for 2010.

Dr. Marja Sorsa is a geneticist who has dedicated her professional life to scientific research and public service in the field of occupational health.

Dr. Marja Sorsa earned her MSc in genetics at the University of Helsinki in 1963 before continuing her graduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley. Following a visiting fellowship at the Max-Planck-Institut f. Biologie in Tübingen, Germany, Dr. Sorsa completed her PhD in genetics at the University of Helsinki in 1969. Thereafter she returned to the United States as a Fullbright Research Scholar in environmental toxicology at the University of California Davis.

She is Professor Emeritus of the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) and was formerly Research Professor in genetic toxicology at the Academy of Finland. Dr. Sorsa served as Director of the Department of Occupational Hygiene and Toxicology at FIOH and then as Director of the Ministry of Education for the Finish government before retiring in 2003. She has represented Finland in the OECD Working Party on Biotechnology and in the Council of Finland Committee on Higher Education and Research. Dr. Sorsa has also served in an executive capacity within the European Union as a member of the European Group on Ethics (EGE) and the Advisory Group of the current Human Resources and Mobility Program.

She has published over 250 peer-reviewed scientific articles in the field of mutagenesis research and genetic toxicology; she is the editor of ten books. In addition to three decades of teaching, Dr. Sorsa has been invited to speak at more than 150 international conferences. Her high credibility and integrity as a scientist, combined with her moral commitment to the daily protection of workers' health, has always given weight to her active interventions. Her stamina in scientific fora has led to the adequate classification of carcinogenic substances despite opposition from industry. She had a pioneering role in increasing the credibility of genetic biomonitoring data as important elements in the international classification of substances as carcinogenic to humans.

Dr. Sorsa is a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Societas Scientiarum Fennica and of the Academia Europea and has been nominated Honorary Member of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. She was elected to the Collegium Ramazzini in 1985 and served on its Executive Council from 1996 to 2001. In addition to her near-perfect attendance record at Ramazzini Days, Marja's scientific leadership in the Collegium has called special attention to the ethical aspects of occupational and environmental health research and practices as well as a focus on the health of women. She is a wife of nearly 50 years (of her research professor), mother and grandmother of two.

Marja's life-long commitment to public service has influenced the thousands of students and employees who have passed through her classrooms and worked under her leadership at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health and beyond. In addition to this scientific mentorship, she has continuously raised awareness of and commitment to ethical values, and has been steadfast in setting up and giving guidance to research in this field. Marja Sorsa is a true follower of Bernardino Ramazzini and a treasured colleague and friend to all Ramazzinians.

Carpi, October 23, 2010

PHILIP J. LANDRIGAN, M.D. President

ENRICO CAMPEDELLI Mayor of Carpi

MORANDO SOFFRITTI, M.D. Secretary General