



DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NOBIS
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUIT

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Dear Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini,

As the year 2021 draws to its close, the time has come for me to thank all of you for having entrusted me with the Presidency of our Collegium for these past 24 years. I have had the honor to follow in the footsteps of two giants in our field, our first two Presidents, Profs. Irving J. Selikoff and Eula Bingham. I now pass the torch with gratitude to Prof Melissa McDiarmid.

There are many whom I wish to thank for their support on this long journey. First, I thank our founders, Irving Selikoff, Cesare Maltoni, Sheldon Samuels, David Rall, Myron Mehlman and Eula Bingham on whose shoulders I have had the privilege to stand. Thanks to Morando Soffritti, who has served faithfully as General Secretary for as long as I have been President. Thanks to Fiorella Belpoggi who has sustained superbly well the research enterprise of the Ramazzini Institute and made the Institute one of the world's most deeply trusted independent toxicology laboratories. Thanks to our dedicated Treasurers, the late beloved Jim Melius and Mark Robson, who have kept the Collegium solvent and preserved our fiscal legacy. I extend my deep gratitude to all who have served as members of the Collegium's Executive Council. You keep the Collegium alive between our annual meetings, and through your untiring willingness to review documents sometimes on very short notice you enable our Collegium to remain relevant and timely in today's complex world. My great gratitude to the Mayors of Carpi, The Honorable Alberto Bellelli, The Honorable Enrico Campodelli, and their predecessors, and to all the citizens of Carpi who have so graciously have hosted us each October in the Ramazzini Days for nearly four decades. My deepest thanks to our dedicated staff in the General Secretariat – Jill Brazier, the late beloved Kathryn Knowles, and Susannah Tillson. Without their tireless work, there would be no Collegium Ramazzini. And last but hardly least, my deepest thanks to all the Fellows of the Collegium, past and present, my sisters and brothers. Through your life's work, you inspire. Through your courage, you amaze. Thank you.

The core mission of the Collegium Ramazzini is to generate scientific knowledge of the environmental and occupational causes of disease and to transmit this knowledge to policy-makers, the media and the global public to protect health, prevent disease and save lives. Thus, though many of us are scholars, we are not merely a society of scholars. Rather, we are a community who are bound together in a mission to

use our scientific knowledge, our accumulated wisdom, and all our virtues to heal the world around us. Our work is to speak truth to power.

My greatest responsibility in my tenure as your President has been to fulfill this mission by making the Collegium Ramazzini a trusted source of authoritative, carefully curated information that we have disseminated to the world to influence policy and protect the health of vulnerable people.

The main strategy that I have followed in pursuit of this goal has been the production of Collegium Ramazzini Statements – 23 of them in 24 years. We have published statements on topics that have included our call for a global ban on all manufacture and use of asbestos (1999); follow-up calls on asbestos (2004, 2010 and 2015); a call for reduction of benzene exposures to the lowest possible level (2004); a call for a worldwide reduction in exposure to lead (2008); a call for the safety and health of migrant laborers (2011); two statements on protecting vulnerable workers from COVID19 infection (2020); and most recently a call for reducing disease and death from artisanal and small-scale-mining (2021). These Statements have had real-world impact. They have reduced suffering and death. They are our collective legacy.

There is much more to be done and I am confident that we will do it. We are a strong Collegium committed to a noble purpose. We shall continue to follow in the footsteps of our patron Dr. Bernardino Ramazzini and our founders. We will continue to heal the world.

I thank all of you again for the joy of your companionship on this journey.



Phil Landrigan