



Il Colle di
Galileo

“Francesco’s legacy: Star formation in space and time”

Florence, Istituto degl’Innocenti, June 5-9, 2017

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Abstract. A scientific conference in memory of Francesco Palla (1954-2016), a world-wide known astrophysicist, Director of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory from 2005 to 2011, took place in Florence from June 5 to 9, 2017.

Keywords. Star formation, Francesco Palla.

The conference “Francesco’s legacy: Star formation in space and time”, held in Florence at the Istituto degl’Innocenti from June 5 to 9, 2017, was dedicated to Francesco Palla (1954 - 2016), an internationally renowned authority in the field of star formation, and Director of the Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri from 2005 to 2011. (For a short biographical sketch, see the article “In memory of Francesco Palla”, by Daniele Galli and Filippo Mannucci, published in vol. 5 n. 2 of this journal).

The conference was attended by some 200 astronomers from all around the world, all motivated by the desire to honour the memory of a distinguished scientist and beloved colleague. The main goal of the conference was to provide a sound overview of the process of star formation in our Galaxy, in both its observational and theoretical aspects. The intensive programme consisted of 55 scientific talks and 105 posters covering the broad range of topics that occupied Francesco himself throughout his career: the evolution of molecular clouds, the formation of protostars, the evolution of pre-main sequence stars, the formation of young stellar clusters, and the origin of the first stars in the Universe. For each subject, selected invited speakers summarized in review talks recent progress and related prospects for future advances.

A second goal of the conference was to introduce the delightful and expansive personality of Francesco to younger people who had never directly interacted with him. For this purpose, the conference was opened by a special session of more informal talks delivered by Steve Stahler, Gary Melnick, Thierry Montmerle, John Bally, Sofia Randich, and Hans Zinnecker, who shared memories of

their collaboration and friendship with Francesco. The conference also included a public talk on "Our Astrochemical Origins" by Cecilia Ceccarelli, and a recollection by Lapo Casetti and Paolo Boncinelli of Francesco's intensive involvement in outreach and classroom activities for high schools. The social dinner at Villa il Gioiello in Arcetri was accompanied by a learned but lively recollection of daily life at the Villa in Galileo's time by Prof. Alberto Righini.

The scientific programme and pdf files of oral and poster presentations are available on the conference's website: <http://www.arcetri.astro.it/sfst2017>



Figure 1. Conference group picture in Piazza S.ma Annunziata, Florence.