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## In memory of Lucia Formigli on the 10th anniversary of her death: the scientist, the teacher, the woman

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Ten years ago, on March 18th, 2014 in Florence Prof. Lucia Formigli, 54 years old, passed away. We, who had the privilege and the pleasure of working with her, an extraordinary person with many talents, wish to pay her a remembrance.

She graduated in Biological Science at the University of Florence in September 1987. From 1988 to 1990 she was a Visiting Fellow at the School of Medicine of the University of Nevada- Reno, USA under the supervision of Dr Gregory J. Highison. From 1990 to 1992 she was recipient of a Research Fellowship and from 1992 to 2004, she was Researcher of Human Anatomy at the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Florence. From 2004 to 2014 she was asked as Associate Professor of Human Anatomy by the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Forensic Medicine, subsequently Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine of the University of Florence. She was a member of the Italian Society of Anatomy and Histology.

Prof. Lucia Formigli was a brilliant and passionate scientist capable of transmitting skills, passion and enthusiasm. A serious, honest, restless,

determined, curious, optimistic and extremely generous researcher, a mentor and an example for her students and colleagues. Her scientific interests were mainly aimed to depict the cellular and molecular mechanisms underpinning tissue repair and regeneration with a focus on bone, cardiac and skeletal muscle. She always wanted to be updated on scientific trends thus contributing to insert in the research the most cutting-edge imaging technologies including confocal laser scanning microscopy, two-photon excitation microscopy, atomic force microscopy and living imaging. In all her numerous outstanding studies, although morphology was the main actor, she included the physiological investigations firmly convinced, as she was, that a multidisciplinary approach was the real basis of science and that “*structure without function is a corpse; function without structure is a ghost*” (Vogel S. and Wainwright S.A., Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, 1969). Moreover, her enthusiasm, energy and curiosity resulted in highly prolific collaborations with histologists, biochemists, pharmacologists,

physicists, surgeons, endocrinologists, anesthetists, oncologists and odontologists. Prof. Lucia Formigli had the ability to never give up and to turn any result, even the unexpected ones, into new avenues and promising perspectives for research. She was co-author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and invited reviews in the field of bone remodeling, cardiac repair/regeneration and skeletal muscle differentiation. In the same field she was invited at both national and international meetings and workshops bringing her own personal contribution. She was a natural leader coaching many PhD students and young researchers who joined the studies, then becoming lifelong friends.

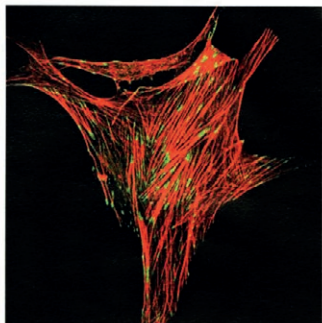
Two years after her death our group decided to honor her memory by organizing a scientific meeting with the participation of colleagues from different Universities and young researchers. On that occasion, the main hall of the Department was crowded with friends, students and coworkers, with emotional scientific presentations related to the main research topics of Lucia.

Prof. Lucia Formigli carried out didactic activities for many years in the Pharmacy degree course at the University of Florence. She was a much appreciated and beloved teacher of Human Anatomy due to her competence, availability and personality, able to involve the students, catch their attention, listen to them, being never indifferent to their special needs. She was co-author of textbooks in the field of macroscopic and microscopic Human Anatomy with wide national diffusion.

Prof. Lucia Formigli was capable of building and aggregating. The same kind of devotion and care she applied to scientific research and teaching was also applied to the relationship with people she was interacting with and this was one of her best qualities. Indeed, the harmony in the research group was an irrevocable priority.

We will never forget her and try to transmit her teaching and example to the young generations.

18 marzo 2016, ore 10.00  
Aula Magna  
ex Presidenza Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia  
**PER RICORDARE**  
**LUCIA**  
*Incontro scientifico in ricordo di Lucia Formigli*



Formigli et al., 2002  
American Journal of Physiology

**Flier** of the scientific meeting organized to remember Prof. Lucia Formigli on March 18th, 2016, two years after her death.