

## A Message to the audience of the 57th SNP meeting

Ladies and gentlemen, this is a bittersweet moment for my sister and me. Our family seems to always have been scattered around the world. As my sister lives in Germany and I live in Thailand, we have asked our family's long-time friend, Paolo Podio Guidugli, to read our message to you as this conference opens.

You gather today under the auspices of the Society for Natural Philosophy to pay tribute to our father, Prof. Gianfranco Capriz, and also to Prof. Maurizio Brocato, one of his closest collaborators. Their legacy is intertwined not just in the work they left behind, but in the indelible mark they made on all of us who had the privilege of knowing them. We would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Roberta Zarcone, Samuel Forest, Lev Truskinovsky, and Xiaoping Jia, for their efforts in organising this memorial to these wonderful people.

Our father's journey through life was a complex one. A concentration camp survivor, he returned to Italy just after the war and with the sheer determination that characterised his personal and professional life, he graduated in Mathematics at Pisa University, and obtained his doctorate at the prestigious Scuola Normale, also in Pisa. He spent a brief stint at the National Institute for Computational Applications in Rome, where he met and married our mother, Barbara, who was training to be an opera singer. They both moved to England in the late 50s, where my sister Donatella and I were born.

At the behest of Enrico Fermi who suggested that the Italian Government invest money in the development of native computer science skills, Dad was recalled from England to take up a position at Italy's first computer research institute in Pisa (the Centro Studi per il Calcolo Elettronico (CSCE)). That institute grew and evolved, while Dad helmed all its transformations, making Pisa the leading centre for Computer Science in Italy. While leading research in computing, Dad also obtained his chair in Rational Mechanics at Pisa University.

In the 1970s, Dad came to be known by Prof. Clifford Truesdell, the founder of this illustrious institution that is gathering today, and began a long collaboration with him that took him and our mother on prologued trips to the United States, as well as consolidating links between the American and Italian schools of rational me-

chanics. Throughout his career, he collaborated with some of the most eminent minds in the field; the aforementioned Prof. Clifford Truesdell from Johns Hopkins University, Prof. Maurizio Brocato from Ecole de Ponts, Paris Tech, and ENSA, Prof. Epifanio Virga of Pavia University, Prof. Paolo Podio Guidugli from Rome TorVergata University, and Prof. Paolo Maria Mariano of the University of Florence, to name but a few, and I apologise profoundly for not mentioning the many others that also helped our Dad to broaden and nuance his research. Our father's colleagues became good family friends, and we remember fondly chatting with them, as they visited our home in Italy throughout his many years of productive research. Yet, behind every great mind, there's a heart that beats with fervour, passion, and love. For our Dad, that heart was our Mum, Barbara. Her unwavering support was the backbone of his work. I live in Asia, so permit me to opine that she was the yin to his yang. Where Dad saw the world through equations, logic, and precision, Mum viewed it through the lens of art, emotions, and colours. This unique combination resulted in a household that was both analytically rigorous and creatively vibrant.

As you may imagine, living with them as children, was both a comedy and a lesson in appreciating the different perspectives of life. I mentioned the complexity of our father's life. This complexity unavoidably spilt over into our family life. To say that some of our dinner conversations were lively is a huge understatement. The dichotomy between our parents was even more remarkable as our Italian father was the rational character, and our English mother was the emotional one. A contradiction of stereotypes, that arguably was the foundation on how my sister and I also built our lives: through very different and very international personal relationships that added to our broad knowledge and enjoyment of the world.

In remembering Gianfranco let's celebrate not only his monumental work but also the beautiful symphony of life he composed with every interaction, every collaboration, and every lesson he imparted. You may have departed from this world, but your legacy is eternal. And to our mother, Barbara, thank you for making our father's' legacy so vividly colourful.

Thank you.

Donatella and Marco Capriz.