Biographical essay/profile – March 2013

Luigi TESIO, MD, specialist in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, was born in 1952 in Vittorio Veneto (north-eastern Italy). Presently, he is Full Professor of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine at the Università degli Studi (State University, www.unimi.it) and Director of the Clinical Unit (50 inpatients beds) and the Laboratory of research of neuromotor rehabilitation at the Istituto Auxologico Italiano in Milan, Italy (www.auxologico.it), a leading national institute for biomedical care and research, with primary mission in Rehabilitation, located in Milan, Italy.

He completed his education and is still living in Milan. His early background, since the time of the Medical School, is in experimental neurophysiology (prof. Fausto Baldissera), muscle and gait biomechanics (prof. Giovanni Cavagna), and bioengineering (Prof. Antonio Pedotti). At age 34 Dr. Tesio moved to a clinical career. After a 2-year training in Neurology, he moved to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, a discipline he's a specialist in. He worked in geriatric rehabilitation first, then in the Rehab Units of large teaching hospitals in Pavia and Milan. Along his career, he came across the Institute of Human Physiology of the University of Milan, the Istituto Nazionale Neurologico “Carlo Besta”, the Geriatric Institute Pio Albergo Trivulzio, the teaching hospitals Ospedale San Raffaele-Dept. of Rehabilitation, the Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri di Pavia. He's heading Clinical Units of Rehabilitation since 1986.

His early interest for motor physiology turned into an interest for neuromotoro rehabilitation. Then, in the early '90s he first approached the methodological issue of outcome measurement. He was disappointed by the discrepancy in metric quality between bio-medical measures so much successful in movement analysis, and the basic patient-centered measures faced in rehabilitation by through questionnaires of fatigue, independence, balance, pain and the like. In his search for a rigorous approach he met Prof. Carl V. Granger, the father of the Functional Independence Measure-FIM™ and the Director of the Center for Functional Assessment Research at SUNY, Buffalo NY (www.udsmr.org). Thank to his close collaboration and friendship with Prof. Granger, he could start the national Italian FIM system, including credentialing courses and a centralised data bank. Prof. Granger introduced Prof. Tesio to the statistical method named after the mathematician Georg Rasch. Since 1995, through stages in Chicago (Prof. BD Wright, Dr. M Linacre), in Buffalo NY (Prof. CV Granger) and in Perth, Western Australia (Prof. D. Andrich) Prof. Tesio progressed in mastering the Rasch models and softwares. He is continuously striving to give evidence to the Rasch approach in Italy, where the rehabilitation field is now showing a rising interest. In parallel he went on following his early interest in motor control, with special emphasis on the development of original methods of exercise and of diagnosis and assessment of motor impairments. Prof. Tesio still has inseparable interests for neurophysiology and biomechanics on one hand, and for measurements, trial design and statistics when applied to the whole-person level, on the other hand.

Beyond many publications in Italian, Prof. Tesio published in English over 90 papers indexed in MEDLINE and/or ISI-WoS, and 15 Book Chapters for leading Publishers. He translated into Italian 4 medical books, two from French and two from English.

Since about 15 years he’s an invited speaker in International Congresses, 1-2 times a year.

He’s and Editorial board member of

- Am J Phys Med Rehabil
- Clin Rehabil
- J appl Meas
- Eur J Rehabil Med

He is serving as an ad hoc reviewers for many other leading Journals.

A list of his main publications including bibliometric indexes can be found at http://www.researcherid.com/rid/A-1083-2008