

## Collegium Ramazzini Statement on the Unjustified Dismissal of Dr. Daniele Mandrioli

*Collegium Ramazzini*

The Collegium Ramazzini is an independent, international scientific academy comprised of 180 physicians and scientists from 45 countries. Its mission is to increase scientific knowledge of the environmental and occupational causes of disease and to transmit this knowledge to decision-makers, the media and the global public in order to prevent disease, promote good health and save lives. The Collegium Ramazzini is independent of commercial interests. It advances scientifically based solutions to global problems in occupational and environmental health.

The Collegium Ramazzini has been informed by the President of the Ramazzini Institute that she and the Institute's Board of Directors have made the decision to relieve Dr. Daniele Mandrioli MD, PhD of his duties as Director of the Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center.

The Collegium Ramazzini is deeply distressed by this decision. We are especially distressed by the closed, non-transparent, and secretive way in which the decision was made. The President and Directors have offered no rationale for their decision other than to say that it was undertaken in the context of a 'reorganization' of the Ramazzini Institute.

A key feature of the research of the Ramazzini Institute from its inception has been its independence of vested interest from the companies that produce and sell toxic products such as asbestos, tobacco, aspartame, and pesticides. The independence and the high scientific quality of this research, which has saved the lives of millions of people around the world, has been a source of great pride to the Collegium Ramazzini and to City of Bologna.

The Collegium Ramazzini is concerned that this decision - made for unclear motives - poses a grave threat to the independence and scientific integrity of the Ramazzini Institute and the Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center. Moreover, this action undermines the reputation of the City of Bologna as a seat of science, a university city, a center of enlightenment, that has been recognized for centuries for its support of independent scientific enquiry.

Dr. Mandrioli is a distinguished toxicologist and epidemiologist who has served since 2020 as Director of the Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center. His leadership in the field of environmental and occupational health is globally recognized, and he has served as expert for International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer agency of the World Health Organization, as well as for the International Labour Organization.

Under Dr. Mandrioli's leadership, the Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center has expanded its research program and bolstered its scientific credibility, in line with the values of integrity and scientific excellence of its founder Prof. Cesare Maltoni. Dr. Mandrioli's contributions to hazard and risk assessment of environmental and occupational exposure to chemicals have been outstanding, helping to prevent diseases and save countless lives. He has led research on the health hazards of multiple substances including pesticides, asbestos and other fibers, air pollutants, food additives and contaminants, plastics, tobacco and electronic cigarettes, and radiofrequency radiation. Dr. Mandrioli is also recognized for his seminal contributions to the field of scientific ethics and methodology, including his work on the effects of conflict of interest and systematic reviews. As the elected

Secretary General of the Collegium Ramazzini, Dr. Mandrioli has been entrusted by the Fellows of the Collegium to continue the legacy of Prof. Maltoni and Prof. Selikoff.

Most recently, Dr. Mandrioli and his colleagues published the results of the carcinogenicity arm of the Global Glyphosate Study, the largest international toxicological study ever performed on glyphosate and glyphosate-based herbicides. The main finding of this study was that pure glyphosate and two commercial glyphosate-based herbicide formulations produced dose-related increases in benign and malignant tumors at multiple anatomic sites in experimental animals. The most notable of these increases was a striking elevation in incidence and mortality from leukemia, with more than 40% of the leukemias occurring in the first year of life. The groundbreaking findings of this study have received global attention and catalyzed an EU Commission mandate to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) to undertake a reevaluation of the carcinogenicity of glyphosate.

The Collegium Ramazzini notes that Dr. Mandrioli, like Prof. Maltoni before him, has been the victim of attacks and defamatory campaigns seeking to undermine his credibility and the credibility of his team's independent research findings on the toxicity of hazardous chemicals. We note that these attacks have dramatically escalated since publication of the findings of the Global Glyphosate Study.

The Collegium Ramazzini respectfully requests that the Ramazzini Institute and the League of the Cooperatives of Bologna make public their reasons for their decision so any failures in Dr. Mandrioli's management can be corrected. In the meantime, we request that you reinstate Dr. Daniele Mandrioli as Director of the Cesare Maltoni Cancer Research Center. While we clearly recognize the authority of the League to make this decision, we hope you recognize that failure to explain this decision and to restore Dr. Mandrioli is likely to irreparably damage the reputation of the Ramazzini Institute, threaten the independence of the Institute's research, and damage the reputation of the City of Bologna as a city of learning and place of enlightenment.

Today, on the 25th anniversary of Prof. Cesare Maltoni passing, his legacy and the future of the Research Center that he established are a global public health asset that we all are dedicated to protecting from external threats.

