Dedication to Dr. Marco Romoli

Im Quah-Smith, MD, PhD

STATEMENT FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The acupuncture community was shocked and deeply saddened by the untimely death of Dr. Marco Romoli. Marco was a major trailblazer in the development of auriculotherapy during many decades. Dr. Im Quah Smith and Dr. Cornelia De Marchi pay special tribute to Dr. Romoli in this special issue of *Medical Acupuncture*, which is dedicated to the 2017 Ninth International Symposium on Auriculotherapy in Singapore. Marco had planned to attend, and everybody was eager to be honored with his presence. On behalf of *Medical Acupuncture* and the editorial staff, we express our sincere condolences on the passing of a friend and colleague whom we admired greatly and will be missed.

—Richard C. Niemtzow, MD, PhD, MPH
Editor-in-Chief

MARCO ROMOLI, MD, was an inspirational clinician, teacher, and researcher. Completely dedicated to his craft, he worked tirelessly from his practice in Prato, Italy, observing, treating, teaching, writing, and investigating auricular interventions, and collecting important data all the while. His life's work culminated in his brilliant text *Auricular Acupuncture Diagnosis* published in 2009 (London, UK: Churchill Livingstone/Elsevier).

One feels he may have used the term *acupuncture* for the title and not *auriculotherapy* or *auricular medicine* because his teachers included the eminent Yoshio Manaka, MD, PhD, and Johannes Bischko, MD, who both pioneers in acupuncture teaching and learning.

Dr. Romoli demonstrated the specific site at the ear successfully with his functional magnetic resonance imaging

(fMRI) project differentiating central activation patterns for the brainstem and thumb. He had more auricular fMRI projects planned. His technique involved using the pressure pointer to locate tender ear sites and treating these with semipermanent needles (Aiguille Semi-Permanente or ASP needles). Sometimes, he used other modalities. Over the years, he developed his own cartography of the ear.

In spite of his failing health, his determination to inspire doctors and clinicians in Australia pushed him to visit Adelaide, Australia, in November of 2016 to lecture on auricular management of neuropathic pain for the Australian Medical Acupuncture College. His presentation was extremely well-received. He also visited Sydney, Australia, and it was my great privilege to show him my hometown. In his 3 days in Sydney, I learned much and was totally inspired by his drive and determination. He lived and breathed auricular acupuncture.

The Organizing Committee for the Ninth International Symposium on Auriculotherapy in Singapore, August 10–22, 2017, was fortunate to have him as a committee member. Sadly, he passed away before his contribution could be fully realized. Thanks and gratitude must be extended to both Cornelia De Marchi, MD, PhD, and Angelo Siragusa, MD, PhD, for preparing Dr. Romoli's final work on neuropathic pain for presentation in Singapore. It was a fitting tribute to Dr. Romoli.

Dr. Marco Romoli was one of the inspired leaders in International Auricular Acupuncture and will be sadly missed.

—Im Quah-Smith, MD, PhD
President, 9th International Symposium on Auriculotherapy