

## Prof. Anthony J. Raimondi



“You are a Nazi!” the words were shouted like a slap, and the abrupt silence that had fallen in the Bilger Auditorium made them even louder. The man stood, staring at the well-known invited foreign guest, whose presentation was about the criteria he had established to deny treatment to children born with meningomyelocele. The invited speaker appeared to be frozen, and the red carnation he insisted on wearing in his buttonhole on all occasions seemed abruptly to wilt.

This is my first memory of Professor Raimondi. This was my first experience of him as my teacher at the very beginning of my fellowship in Chicago. After so many years, such a memory is still quite vivid, in spite of the innumerable moments our close relationship has allowed us to share since then. In such a memory, I can find the legacy of his commitment to children, a legacy still manifest now in the Department of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Children’s Memorial Hospital, which he created with the specific goal of treating children with neurosurgical disease. It is a legacy that still persists, morally and scientifically, in the same department, through his successor’s continuing unique activity for the benefit of myelodysplastic subjects.

Often I ask myself why so many of us are so intrigued by him. Probably, it’s the obvious impossibility of duplicating his life ever again that makes him so attractive.

“His life was a series of books”, the line written for the author of the *Golden Bough*, cannot be applied to Professor Raimondi’s life, in spite of his many publications. His book: “*Pediatric Neuroradiology*,” published in 1972, was equal to Matson’s in establishing the dignity of pediatric neurosurgery as a specific discipline within neurosurgery. Its introductory sentence “Children are not little adults. Infants are not little children. Newborns are not little infants,” echoed by many of us in all the parts of the world, became a kind of trademark or motto of our specialty. It is a great shame that the introduction of the computed tomography into clinical practice at almost the same time prevented too many young fellows in

subsequent years from being exposed to its main teaching message, that is to say the possibility of mentally visualizing the brain and its morphological changes in pathologic conditions in three dimensions by means of radiological delineation of the CSF spaces and vascular structures alone. The oldest of us will certainly remember the thrill and the excitement experienced when we correctly interpreted the angiographic changes allowing recognition of a given cerebral pathology on the basis of active observation, as suggested in Raimondi's book. Such a feeling can't be shared by those accustomed to passively profiting from the images currently provided by the modern diagnostic tools for neuroimaging, though these are undoubtedly more accurate. Most of the charm and the artistic way of conveying neurosurgical knowledge that Professor Raimondi displayed in this first book was then found again in his elegant "*Pediatric Neurosurgery. Theoretical Principles – Art of Surgical Techniques*," the last edition of which may be regarded as his scientific testament.

"His life was a series of facts," this sentence appears more appropriate as a description of Professor Raimondi's existence. Indeed, he created the specialty of pediatric neurosurgery, he founded its governing structure, the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery and also its official journal: *Child's Brain*, later *Child's Nervous System*, he revived the European Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, he helped found the American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery, and he inspired the birth of other national societies. Several of his pupils became chairmen of departments of pediatric neurosurgery or neurosurgery in America, Asia, and Europe. He himself was Chairman of Neurosurgery at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, probably the first pediatric neurosurgeon to bear this kind of responsibility. In Italy, he was honored with a special *ad personam* chair of pediatric neurosurgery at the University "La Sapienza", Rome.

Several personal stories begin with a voyage. Professor Raimondi's life was a continuous voyage, as his restless spirit and brilliant intelligence could not be confined within a single country or continent for too long. From the States he went to Ferrara, one of the oldest universities in Europe, and then to Rome to study medicine. From Rome he returned to Chicago to become a neurosurgeon and a professor of neurosurgery. Then, he taught in Hanover, subsequently in Verona, and finally, in Rome. The numerous invitations extended to him took him to deliver stimulating scientific presentations in nearly all the countries of the world. He changed countries without once betraying his basic interest in pediatric neurosurgery, thus inspiring the young doctors of the various nations with his optimistic view of the development of pediatric neurosurgery while appealing to their scientific curiosity. To many pediatric neurosurgeons faced with difficulty in being recognized in their own countries because of the resistance offered by

general neurosurgeons, he taught commitment and self-reliance.

A man of faith, hope, and controversy, a charismatic personality, a catalyst in promoting changes and progress, Professor Raimondi remains a potent symbol in the collective memory of our specialty: we won't let him be forgotten.

The following memories of the *Child's Nervous System's* Editors should be regarded as a special tribute to his cosmopolitan career and to his devotion to this journal.

Concezio Di Rocco  
Rome, Italy

It was with great sadness that the neurosurgery community of South Africa received the news of Tony Raimondi's death. Tony had visited Cape Town in the 1970s and was well known to all of us in South Africa, mainly through his writings. I knew him personally through my association with him on the Editorial Board of *Child's Nervous System*. There is no question that the existence of paediatric neurosurgery as a specialty owes much to the enthusiasm and dedication of Tony Raimondi. He was instrumental in the founding of our International Society and believed firmly in the sharing of international experience as a way of broadening our specialty and making it relevant to the needs of the whole world. I will remember Tony as a friendly, enthusiastic and encouraging colleague, always putting the interests of paediatric neurosurgery forward and encouraging others to do the same. He always stressed the fact that we were all basically neurosurgeons and he shied away from the prospect of our specialty going it alone. To this end he remained committed to the paediatric aspects of neurosurgery while always maintaining a link to the adult neurosurgery community. He worked hard on developing *Child's Nervous System* as a forum for all paediatric neurosurgeons to communicate their experience and new ideas. Tony was very cognisant of the fact that competition for first-rate scientific articles has become increasingly fierce with many journals competing for paediatric neurosurgery articles. He worked hard to try and get some unification of paediatric neurosurgery publications, but this still remains an elusive dream for the future. We will remember Tony Raimondi with affection.

Jonathan C. Peter  
Cape Town, South Africa

I did not have the privilege of knowing Tony Raimondi for that long. My first introduction to him was after I had made a presentation on neuroendoscopy when it was a relatively new discipline and most neurosurgeons, espe-

cially the “older” ones, were rather skeptical. Tony complimented me on the series and went on to predict the important role that endoscopy would play in the future of pediatric neurosurgery. I had never met the man before and, although his reputation was larger than life, he approached me after the meeting to congratulate me and to encourage me to keep up the “good work.” This initial encounter, needless to say, left an indelible mark on me that I will treasure forever.

Tony was a great neurosurgeon in many different ways. He was a progressive thinker, a prolific writer, a great ambassador for pediatric neurosurgery, a consummate leader and, above all else, down to earth and honest ... sometimes to a fault!

Tony had the ability to make you feel at ease. I don't know if it was his flamboyant personality, his colorful mannerisms, his sense of humor, or his ability to communicate on your level. It was probably a combination of all these aspects of his vivacious personality that gave him a winning edge when it came to political endeavors, diplomatic liaisons and interpersonal skills. He will be remembered for his great contribution to pediatric neurosurgery. His writings, presentations, editorial comments, organizational skills, critical appraisals and didactic teaching have influenced many neurosurgeons on every continent for several decades.

The contribution made by Tony to the education of neurosurgeons in developing countries through his work with the World Health Organization was one of his greatest achievements. I will remember him for his friendship and inspiration. His inimitable enthusiasm and passion for pediatric neurosurgery will be a constant reminder of the real reason we are in this profession. During one of our intimate conversations about the politics of medicine, Tony consumed what I had to say, pondered for a few brief seconds and, with the wisdom of many years of experience, gave me some very good advice: “Don't let the bastards get to you. Take the higher road, care for your patients, don't just take from our profession, put something back into it and let the rest take care of itself.”

Tony Raimondi practiced what he preached. His achievements are a testament to his persistence, dedication and energy.

*Great beings accomplish through perseverance. Steadfast movement on consistent paths leads to success. With a heart full of compassion uninterrupted joy and good fortune are inevitable.*

*The Tao of Giving and Receiving.*

Charles Teo  
Sydney, Australia

Anthony J. Raimondi died on 16 June 2000, leaving behind a legacy for which he had become a legend in his lifetime.

Anthony J. Raimondi mastered whatever he did. He possessed exceptional intelligence with superior mental abilities and was gifted in many ways. He was a visionary, master writer, scientist, superb neurosurgeon, inventor, innovator, founder, exceptional organizer, teacher, mentor, leader, and entrepreneur. Excellence was his trademark, and everything he did was of unique quality and caliber.

*Anthony J. Raimondi the Writer.* His writings are too numerous to be listed here. Not only did he write many textbooks, myriads of journal articles, several biographies and editorials, but he encouraged and organized others to write. He wrote with ease in a very particular style. He was Chairman of the ISPN Publications Committee until 1989. In 1975 the Publications Committee founded the journal *Child's Brain*, and Anthony J. Raimondi became its Executive Editor until 1984 when the last edition of *Child's Brain* was published. In 1985 a new official journal of the ISPN, *Child's Nervous System*, was founded, and Anthony J. Raimondi continued as Executive Editor until his death. *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery* became the official journal of the World Federation of Neurosurgery Societies with Anthony J. Raimondi as Chief Editor until 1999, when the journal was discontinued. Because he knew almost everybody in the world of Neurosciences and everybody knew him, he was able to assemble the Editorial Boards for these journals impeccably.

His exceptional organizational skills allowed him to run the journals' business smoothly and efficiently – not an easy task considering the scope and international nature of these journals.

*Anthony J. Raimondi the Inventor.* Innovation and creativity were some of his virtues. Difficulties encountered in the operating room challenged his imagination and prompted the development of new operative techniques and equipment. The frequent problems observed with tubes and valves used in CSF diversion systems for the treatment of hydrocephalus encouraged him to develop new shunts. As a result he conceived and developed the “Raimondi Peritoneal Catheter” and the “Unishunt.” Both these pieces of equipment became very popular during the 1970s and 1980s and are still used in some neurosurgical units.

Anthony J. Raimondi developed and modified surgical techniques for craniosynostosis, chronic SDH in infants, aneurysms of the vein of Galen, pineal tumors, craniopharyngioma, and medulloblastoma.

*Anthony J. Raimondi the Neurosurgeon and Teacher.* To understand and appreciate his surgical skills and ability it is essential to be familiar with his work, and in this regard his textbook “*Pediatric Neurosurgery. Theoretical Principles – Art of Surgical Techniques*” provides an exceptionally good illustration of his outstanding knowl-

edge, insight, and ability in his neurosurgical craft. This opus of the master has now become a treasured icon in our libraries and a landmark in the history of pediatric neurosurgery. Lasers held a fascination for him, and he mastered their use in his operating room. Because he was a superb teacher he effectively conveyed to others what he had learned from his extensive operative experience. Many of his pupils are now leaders in pediatric neurosurgery in many parts of the world.

*Anthony J. Raimondi the Founder and Exceptional Organizer.* The ISPN was founded in 1971 by the passionate devotion to such specific field of Neurosurgery with eleven founding members, and Anthony J. Raimondi was one of them. Initially Anthony J. Raimondi became its first Secretary and in 1977 the Society's Fifth President. He was also Founding Member and Past President of the AANS Section on Pediatric Neurosurgery, the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, and the Academy of Pediatric Neurosurgery. More recently he was honored by being created President of the European Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. This previous list of executive appointments clearly illustrates not only his illustrious career but also his enormous contribution to the development of organized Pediatric Neurosurgery around the world.

*Anthony J. Raimondi the Entrepreneur.* In the mid-1980s he and his wife, Lucia, decided on a new venture and moved from Chicago to the Valpolicella Valley in Gargagnago, near Verona, Italy, where they established themselves very successfully in the wine producing business. Having had the pleasure of enjoying the wonderful hospitality of Anthony J. Raimondi and his wife at their home in Villa Monteleone, where the wine business was located, after several visits and wine tasting occasions I am convinced that Anthony J. Raimondi had learned and knew this business nearly as well as that of neurosurgery. Shortly after his arrival in Italy, "La Sapienza" University in Rome appointed Anthony J. Raimondi Chairman of Pediatric Neurosurgery. I believe this was the first chair of pediatric neurosurgery in the world.

If we just consider Anthony J. Raimondi's originality, creativity, knowledge, and outstanding international career, the magnitude of his contributions to the development and establishment of pediatric neurosurgery around the world and his enormous success in all his areas of endeavor, we cannot help but conclude that Anthony J. Raimondi was a modern "Renaissance Man" in his own right.

To conclude, let us celebrate the life and the works of a great man, for he was master of masters, leader of leaders, and best of the best in all he accomplished during his lifetime!

Enrique C.G. Ventureyra  
Ottawa, Canada

Open letter to Mrs. Raimondi, 19 June 2000

Dear Lucia:

I am deeply grieved to hear of the sudden passing of your husband. Please accept my sincerest condolences upon this sad event.

He was my great teacher and good friend. He taught me a lot, not only about pediatric neurosurgery, but also about how to live life. I am very sorry that I could not come to Verona to attend his funeral service.

He will live in our hearts from now on. I think he will always be watching us from heaven.

I wish I could reduce your pain by sharing it with you.

I hope you will recover from your grief very soon.  
With sympathy,

Koreaki Mori  
Nankoku-City, Japan

I do not wish to believe Professor Raimondi has passed away, and actually I think he is still standing by me, giving good advice and smiling while he talks. I met him for the first time at the 13th ISPN Meeting in 1985 in Mexico. He looked to be steady and tender and to have lots of affection for everyone. After presentation of my topic, TCS, I was easily able to introduce myself to Professor Raimondi. He was very much interested in the status of pediatric neurosurgery in Korea, and I described the situation in our country to him in great detail. According to his recommendation, I immediately joined ISPN, and I established the Korean Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery in 1987. Ever since then, I have participated without a break in the annual meetings of the ISPN and presented papers, and tried to acquaint myself with ISPN members from other countries, and I also proposed holding the ISPN meeting in Seoul in 1991. With support and good advice from Professor Raimondi, the 19th (1991) ISPN Meeting was then indeed successfully held there.

In 1995, Professor Raimondi came to Seoul to give a lecture at the International Hydrocephalus Symposium, with Professor Choux and Professor Di Rocco. It was a very impressive and unforgettable lecture on the pathophysiology of hydrocephalus.

In addition, I joined him on the editorial board of *Child's Nervous System* and committed myself to raising standards of this journal as far as my own country and Japan were concerned. In 1997, the 25th, the Silver Anniversary, Meeting of the ISPN was held in Verona, where Professor Raimondi lived. I had the great honor of being invited to his grape farm and enjoyed the silver anniversary very much at his home. I also had the good fortune to be elected President of ISPN at the Verona executive meeting and was then president from 1998 to 1999, helped by his kind advice and deep consideration.

As you know, he was a real pioneer of pediatric neurosurgery throughout the world and the founder of the ISPN. Professor Raimondi also contributed an enormous amount to development of the pediatric neurosurgical field among general neurosurgeons. In addition, he was an energetic, highly organized neuroscientist and a very famous clinical neurosurgeon. He was a medical drawing artist and published a textbook of pediatric neurosurgery and many articles pertaining to pediatric neurosurgery.

And otherwise, he was a great man who was the first editor of the journal *Child's Brain*, and finally the editor of *Child's Nervous System*, as it later became; and as chief editor he made a very substantial contribution to its status as an international journal, also working well with the geographic editors. Finally, it is known that he maintained high standards for *Child's Nervous System* through his endless effort and intelligence.

Personally he had a very friendly manner, liked to make friends internationally, was always in a flood of emotion, and sympathized with overseas students over their further studies.

I know he was very partial to a drink of beer, and also wine, and liked talking with people in his friendly way. He gave us good advice and highlighted our unsolved problems. I thought he was born for medical science, for the development of pediatric neurosurgery, and for pediatric neurosurgeons. Yesterday I found this sad news in my e-mail box and read it several times, because it is an unbelievable event for me. At first, I could not think how I might console Lucia and his family. However, I am sure he is living in Heaven with the Angels. We have lost the biggest star in the ISPN and the worldwide community of those engaged in neurosurgery in this new millennium. I deeply appreciate Professor Raimondi for his great contribution to the founding of the ISPN and also for his status as a world pioneer in neurosurgery. Although he has gone to live in Heaven, his soul and his achievements will live with us forever. I pray "God let him live in Heaven and give his family comfort for ever."

Joon Ki Kang  
Seoul, South Korea

I met Anthony Raimondi for the first time almost 30 years ago, in November 1970 in Mexico City, on the occasion of an official meeting of the American Academy of Neurological Surgery. He and E. Bruce Hendrick were the only pediatric neurosurgeons among the participants. Tony was young, energetic and charismatic. He presented a couple of papers on tumors and hydrocephalus.

Three years later, I met Tony again in Tokyo (October 1973) during the Vth International Congress of Neurological Surgery. In conjunction with the World Congress,

the 1st Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN) was held on 12–13 October at the Keidanren Kaikan, under the chairmanship of Satoshi Matsumoto. This meeting opened the era of modern pediatric neurosurgery: Anthony Raimondi and Joseph Ransohoff, USA, Maurice Choux and Jacques Rougerie, France, Raul Carrea, Argentina, Karl Bushe, Germany, Kenneth Till and John Shaw, UK, Steen Flood, Norway, Satoshi Matsumoto, Japan, and E. Bruce Henrick, Canada, founded the ISPN in 1972.

The influence of the ISPN worldwide was rapidly felt. Donald Matson's ideas, techniques, etc., were no longer the only ones to teach or follow in pediatric neurosurgery. The founders of the ISPN were joined by many other pediatric neurosurgeons around the world, thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of Tony Raimondi, Maurice Choux, Satoshi Matsumoto and Raul Carrea.

Tony exerted a pivotal influence in the creation and publication of *Child's Brain*, the predecessor of *Child's Nervous System*, as the official journal of the ISPN in 1975.

Anthony Raimondi, as Executive Editor, wrote in the preface to the first issue of *Child's Brain*: "*Child's Brain* is the official journal of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. As such, it will both serve as a forum for continuing advances in this discipline and provide periodic review articles on well-established neurosurgical problems in childhood. ... The mission of this journal goes beyond this. The Editorial Board is truly international in representation. ... We recognize that pediatric neurosurgery is a speciality and that, accordingly, one must have access to a continuous flow of scientific literature signaling progress and identifying problems. Therefore, with the publication of this periodical, pediatric neurosurgery ... comes of age."

In January 1985, *Child's Brain* was no longer the official journal of the ISPN. Springer-Verlag started the publication of *Child's Nervous System* with Anthony Raimondi as Executive Editor, a post that he held until his death on 16 June 2000.

I really became a friend of Tony in 1978, on the occasion of a pediatric neurosurgery course which was organized by him in Chicago. I invited Tony to go to Mexico City the next year for a meeting in my institution. Unfortunately, a couple of months after the Chicago meeting, Tony suffered the tremendous pain of losing his beloved son, Paolo, "who lived his entire life in childhood," as Tony stated in the dedication of his book, *Pediatric Neurosurgery. Theoretic Principles – Art of Surgical Techniques* (1987).

I became a member of the ISPN in 1979 during the VII annual meeting held in Chicago with Tony as chairman of the meeting. Raul Carrea was the president-elect of the ISPN, but Dr. Carrea died months before the meeting and Anthony Raimondi started the beautiful tradition of "The Poncho" which, fortunately, has continued up to

the present time. From that time on, I attended the ISPN meetings regularly and always had the opportunity to meet Tony, enjoy his presentations and socialize with him. Tony, Maurice Choux and Luis Schut, among others, gave me their support for the organization of the XIII Annual Meeting of the ISPN, which took place in Mexico City in July of 1985.

In 1986, Tony and his wife, Lucia, moved to Italy and settled in Villa Monteleone near Verona in the Valpolicella Valley. What a wonderful experience it was to visit them in Villa Monteleone in 1990, 1992 and 1997. As their guest, I enjoyed not only their gorgeous place, but most importantly their warm hospitality, the wine that Tony grew himself, the chats after dinner, the trips around Villa Monteleone visiting little churches, such as San Giorgio in Valpolicella, the tours in Verona, and so on.

The last time I saw both Tony and Lucia, back in 1997, was in Verona and Villa Monteleone on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of the ISPN. Although I knew about Tony's illness, his death arrived sooner than anticipated, leaving a feeling of great emptiness in all of those who have had the opportunity to know him.

In conclusion, I quote Dr. Anthony Raimondi: "All too often, we get so lost in our work on earth that we forget life is a transition between sea and sky." Dear Tony: You are now where your beloved son Paolo is. I will see you later!!

Fernando Rueda-Franco  
Mexico City, Mexico

With the passing away of Professor Anthony J. Raimondi, pediatric neurosurgery worldwide has lost one of its most renowned figures, who epitomized the most significant landmarks in the specialty: ASPN and ISPN, as well as the journals *Child's Brain* and *Child's Nervous System*.

A tireless traveler and a devoted student of social problems, he was well aware of the situation of pediatric neurosurgery in each country, and in each he did his utmost to help the neediest with his presence or with advice.

When Professor Raúl Carrea visited Professor Raimondi's Pediatric Neurosurgery Department in Chicago in October 1967, they struck up a warm friendship that persisted until Carrea's death and was then extended to his disciples. His Latin origin and his relationship with Professor Carrea caused him to have a special affection for Latin American and more particularly Argentine pediatric neurosurgery, so that he followed developments there closely and welcomed numerous Latin American neurosurgeons to his Department in Chicago.

For neurosurgeons based in South America, so far from great world centers in terms not only of the distance but also of economic factors, it was indeed crucial

that Professor Raimondi opened the doors to his Department for our training, facilitating our stays in Chicago with all the means at his disposal. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know him personally were able to appreciate his extraordinary gifts as a surgeon and as a mentor. In spite of his intense activity in his profession, he never neglected other aspects of the life of a learned and modern gentleman.

An excellent gourmet, when he was already settled in Verona his greatest pleasure was to be host to his colleagues at his property in Villa Monteleone for work meetings and to invite them to partake of exquisite wines of his own production and dishes prepared under his wife Lucia's diligent supervision.

Even now he is physically no longer present, his name will always be with us in our chosen field and he will be remembered as the Master of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

On behalf of all our Latin American colleagues, I extend our reverent remembrances and deep gratitude to Professor Raimondi, in the certainty that God will grant him everlasting peace.

Graziela Zuccaro  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

The news of Dr. Anthony Raimondi's death was a shock to me, since I had found him so well and active at the last meeting of ISPN, at Salt Lake City in 1999. Little did we realise that he would be snatched away from us so soon.

I met Dr. Raimondi briefly when he was the Chief Resident with Dr. Evans in mid-1961, when we got a glimpse of what he was likely to contribute to academe in the future. He showed beautiful microphotographs of various brain tumors he had studied. I was a research fellow at Children's Memorial Hospital (CMH), Chicago, at that time. He succeeded me at the CMH a couple of years later and then became a full faculty member. That was the beginning of a new era for Children's Memorial Hospital, which has since become a world leader in paediatric neurosurgery. Paediatric neurosurgeons from all over the world have received their training at his hands; it would be no exaggeration to state that Japanese paediatric neurosurgery was born at CMH!

Our friendship was built up on a common bond of friendship, admiration and the respect we had for Dr. Harvey White, the wonderful radiologist at CMH. Though we had not met for several years, both of us felt that we knew each other well. The friendship was further cemented in 1972 at the meeting of ISPN in Chicago when both he and Kenneth Till encouraged me to become a member of ISPN. Dr. Raimondi's enthusiasm was infectious, and I became more and more involved in the practice of paediatric neurosurgery and its develop-

ment as a specialty in India. He was largely responsible for the fact that the XVIIth Annual meeting of ISPN in 1989 was held in Bombay, which gave a great fillip to the development of paediatric neurosurgery in India. As a result, the Indian Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery was founded in 1990. He wanted to see paediatric neurosurgery blossom in most of the regions of the world, and he hand-picked neurosurgeons from areas where the idea of it was new and inspired them with the enthusiasm to practise paediatric neurosurgery as a specialty.

Dr. Raimondi was one of the founders of paediatric neurosurgery. He remained its father-figure all his life, training and promoting paediatric neurosurgeons from all over the world. He was largely responsible for getting WHO to accept paediatric neurosurgery as an important subspecialty and got representation of ISPN on its advisory committee. As Chief Editor of *Child's Brain* and *Child's Nervous System*, he laboured constantly to raise the journal's academic standards and established it as one of the best journals of paediatric neurosurgery.

Dr. Raimondi was a great academician and an erudite scholar. He had profound knowledge of history and philosophy. His writings were often philosophical. He had a wonderful command of the English language. It was always a pleasure to listen to his talks and read his scholarly articles. Though he had retired from the active practice of paediatric neurosurgery, he continued with it on the academic side.

Dr. Raimondi was a great leader. In recognition of his tremendous contribution to paediatric neurosurgery, at the Annual Meeting in Verona in 1997 he was presented with the Medal of Honour of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. This was the first such medal ever presented, and it was fitting that it should go to a man who had devoted his whole life to the cause of paediatric neurosurgery. His death has resulted in a void that cannot be filled. With his death we have lost a great crusader, and I a dear friend. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Sanat N. Bhagwati  
Bombay, India

Speech held at the Annual Meeting in Verona in 1997, on the occasion of the presentation of the Medal of Honor of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery to Professor Anthony J. Raimondi:

Dr. Anthony J. Raimondi (born in Chicago) obtained [his] Doctorate in Medicine and Surgery of the University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome, in 1954 and had his residency in Neurological Surgery with Dr. Evans at the University of Chicago Clinics, Chicago from December 1956 through June 1962.

Thereafter he held several academic positions which include Chairmanships of the Division of Neurological Surgery of Children's Memorial Hospital from 1969 to

1979 and Division of Neurosurgery of Northwestern University Medical School Chicago from 1972–1982. At present he is Professor and Chairman of Pediatric Neurosurgery at University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome, and Director Department of Neurological Sciences, Villa Maria Cecilia, Ravenna, Italy.

He has been a visiting Professor and Guest Lecturer (on 89 occasions) of several eminent institutions all around the world. He is a member of numerous societies, having been a Founder Member of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, Lasser Association of Neurological Surgeons, Section for Pediatric Neurosurgery of American Association of Neurological Surgeons and International Society for Pediatric Skull Base. He is also a member of the working group in Neurosurgery of World Health Organization (from 1996).

He has been President of International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, President of American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery, Secretary and President of European Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery and President of International Society for Pediatric Skull Base.

He has been recipient of several honours and awards, the highest being that of "Order of Merit of the Italian Republic" by the President of Italy in recognition of his contributions in medicine (Neurosurgery) in 1980.

He is the Executive Editor of *Child's Nervous System* and Publication Coordinator of *Critical Reviews in Neurosurgery*.

Dr. Raimondi has published 148 articles, 55 abstracts, 38 chapters and 14 books.

Dr. Raimondi has devoted his lifetime to further[ing] the development of pediatric neurosurgery to teach the principles and practice of pediatric neurosurgery to fully trained neurosurgeons, to establish educational programs for residents and students and to founding pediatric neurosurgical societies dedicated to furthering the cause of children afflicted with surgical disease of the central nervous system all over the world.

Care of the sick has been his passion. Development of newer techniques and making surgery safer has been his goal. Improvement in neurosurgical care of the children in the developing countries of the world has been his mission. In recognition of his yeomen services to the cause of pediatric neurosurgery, the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery presents its first Medal of Honor to Dr. Anthony Raimondi.

In memory of my teacher:

The pediatric neurosurgical community lost one of its great neurosurgeons and teachers on 16 June 2000. Dr. Anthony John Raimondi, former Chairman of the Children's Memorial Hospital, passed away at the age of 71 after patiently yet bravely battling against a long illness. He was a teacher of many pediatric neurosurgeons practicing around the world. One of the many contributions

he made to pediatric neurosurgery was that he was a driving force behind the founding of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery in 1972 and the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery in 1978. The establishment of these two societies subsequently triggered the formation of many pediatric neurosurgical societies in many regions throughout the world, including Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Dr. Raimondi was born on 16 July 1928 and raised in Chicago, Illinois. He attended Crane Technical High School and graduated from the University of Illinois. Instead of attending an American medical school, he chose to go to the University in Ferrara, Italy, a little castle town where Copernicus studied. After 2 years, having decided to go back to America, he transferred to the University of Rome. Upon graduation from the medical school there in 1954, he spent an internship at Wesley Memorial Hospital, where his initial desire to be a psychiatrist vanished, and he chose to become a neurosurgeon. Following a year of general surgery residency at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago, he spent his neurosurgical residency at the University of Chicago Hospital under Dr. Joseph Evans from 1956 to 1962. During the residency, he had an opportunity to study pediatric neurology under Dr. Douglas Buchanan, which fascinated the young doctor and doubtless contributed to his decision to dedicate his life to pediatric neurosurgery.

After graduation from residency, and a short stay at the Children's Memorial Hospital with Dr. Luis Amador, he became Chairman of Neurosurgery at Cook County Hospital in 1963 at the age of 34. He was the youngest chairman of a residency training program in the US at that time. In 1968 he returned to the Children's Memorial Hospital as Chairman of Pediatric Neurosurgery, the position he held until 1980. He also became Professor and Chairman of the Division of Neurosurgery at Northwestern University Medical School in 1972 and held this position until 1982. At the Children's Memorial Hospital he paved the way to what is currently the largest pediatric neurosurgery service in North America.

As all of us know, Dr. Raimondi made enormous contributions in the realm of neuroscience and neurosurgery throughout his professional career. One of them was the passion he devoted to the training of so many young neurosurgeons, who have since become the current leaders in pediatric neurosurgery here and around the world. Five of his former students have had the honor of serving as Presidents of the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery. In 1970 he chaired a committee on the Education of a Neurosurgeon sponsored by the Society of Neurological Surgeons and the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke. Dr. Raimondi was an extremely charismatic and energetic man, with many great ideas and much compassion. Current pediatric neurosurgeons and their patients appreciate his foresight in recognizing the need for a pediatric specialty in neuro-

surgery. He established the first pediatric neurosurgical journal, *Child's Brain* (now *Child's Nervous System*) in 1975 with Dr. Raul Carrea, and he served as the journal's chief editor until his death.

In the early 1960s, his main interests in neuroscience were cerebral edema and injury, and he published numerous scientific research papers on these topics on the basis of laboratory work with the electron microscope. He also described ultrastructural findings of brain tumors. In the later 1960s, his interests shifted in the direction of pediatric neuroradiology. The textbook he published in 1972, "*Pediatric Neuroradiology*," was absolutely unique, in that it describes not only radiographic findings, but also detailed information on pediatric neurosurgery in general. While pediatric neurosurgery was in its infancy, this textbook was regarded as a rare bible for pediatric neurosurgeons. In the pre-CT era, his strength was in his ability to diagnose and characterize childhood intracranial pathologies on the grounds of angiography alone. He identified a concept of "midline syndrome" for childhood brain tumors that tend to occur in the skull midline and present with few lateralizing signs or none at all. Childhood hydrocephalus was one area of his life-time work. Dr. Raimondi challenged all comers to find the solution to this devastating disorder by experimental and/or clinical work. He obtained a large grant from NIH to investigate experimental models of hydrocephalus. He systematically classified childhood hydrocephalus on the basis of angiographic findings. He it was who, in 1974, discovered the importance of shunting for the survival of hydrocephalic children and for their intellectual development.

He also made a number of significant contributions in the areas of surgical instrumentations and techniques, which remain in use today. The Unishunt, commonly known as 'Raimondi's shunt,' dominated the market over two decades. He started to use a trocar technique for insertion of the peritoneal catheter to a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt into the abdominal cavity. With inspired brilliance he invented the performance of posterior fossa craniotomy instead of craniectomy and of laminoplasty instead of laminectomy, and these have since been practiced by pediatric neurosurgeons worldwide.

His numerous scientific publications ranged through every aspect of pediatric neurosurgery, from his earlier work on the electron-microscopic features of brain tumors to neuro-oncology, neurotraumatology, CNS infections, congenital anomalies and vascular malformations. He stressed the importance of radical tumor resection, particularly for medulloblastoma. He warned us of the serious side effects that could prejudice a child's psychomotor development following CNS infections and irradiations.

In the clinical setting, he was often brusque, yet a masterful surgeon. On the wards, he was a charismatic teacher and demanded that residents should know all the



facts about the patients. Residents were expected to memorize all clinical data, and report them during ward rounds without using notes. Amazingly, he corrected the residents if they presented “information” that was not correct. At the Children’s Memorial Hospital, all angiographies and pneumoencephalographies were done by neurosurgical residents. A highlight of the rounds was the daily neuroradiology conference at which all neuro-radiological material was reviewed and where extensive teaching was conducted. Dr. Raimondi held weekly teaching conferences, which often lasted until late in the evening. I still remember the monthly journal club, which held its meetings in a noisy pub nearby over beer and pizza. At the end of the year, all Northwestern residents were required to present a scientific paper at the alumni day. This annual conference reflected the passion he expended on training academic neurosurgeons. Dr. Raimondi was one of the most popular professors at the Northwestern University Medical School. His neuroanatomy lectures to medical students were dynamic and intriguing, and in them he shared his wealth of knowledge of neuroanatomy and neurophysiology. He assigned all neurosurgery residents as teaching assistants at brain dissections, which benefited both medical students and residents.

Despite his often flamboyant attitude, Dr. Raimondi truly loved and cared for children. In an interview with the *Chicago Tribune* in 1979, he said, ‘I adore surgery. I absolutely adore it. I could never stand through a prolonged operation and the tension and stress if I didn’t. But there are many times when I think, “What the hell am I doing here?” It’s tough. It’s terrible. That’s part of it. All the surgeons I know who are really good love surgery, but consider as I do that the best operation is the one you can avoid – if it’s not necessary for the patients.’ He also took the time to speak with the families of the children. “I have no control over my life,” he said; “I don’t feel I can leave until the patient and his family are satisfied. The human element is the most important thing to me. Part of it is getting both patient and family to accept a particular situation. Maybe just standing around with ‘em until they are fully aware of just how sure you, neurosurgeon, are of yourself and to what extent you have real doubts. When they feel this, they’re ready for surgery.”

Tragedy struck the Raimondis in 1978 shortly after he celebrated his fiftieth birthday, when he lost his younger son Paulo to a boating accident. This event changed his life. He moved back to the Valpolicella region of Italy in 1986, where he and his wife Lucia acquired a vineyard and extended his hobby of winemaking into a business. However, he never quit his academic career and obtained a teaching position at his alma mater the University of Rome. He remained active in neurosurgical society, serving as the President of the European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery and also hosting the scientific meeting of

the International Society for Pediatric Neurosurgery in Verona.

In his personal life, his love of cigars, fine wines and sport cars was well known. He admired the life of Yukio Mishima, a Japanese novelist, and read all his novels. He taught me a great deal about Mishima’s life. I was privileged to be one of Dr. Raimondi’s students and his former associate. During my 25 years of association with him, he was one of the most influential teachers and persons in my life. This giant is surely missed, but his legacy will live long and flourish as well all advance toward the new century.

Tadanori Tomita  
Chicago, USA

As we travel the various educational and academic pathways of life we probably forget most of the people that we meet, fortunately or unfortunately. There are those people, on the other hand, who leave lasting impressions, and often strong visual imagery, and certainly Tony fits this last category. I had the pleasure to interact with this wonderful gentleman on a number of different levels: pediatric neurosurgery, scholar in ancient history, editor of a journal, friend and maker of great wines. Each of these relationships could be dissected and in turn develop into its own monograph. There are two areas that I would like to review, which in turn I think will reveal the multifaceted personality of this most unique individual.

When meeting Tony, whether on the podium or just passing in the corridor, one was always impressed by his smile, his warmth in a greeting and then often a sharing of a rich and special past memory. My most recent memory of him was at a special dinner he held at his villa in Verona, where we were served superb food, imbibed wines produced in his cellars and had an evening of conversation that extended way into the wee hours of the morning.

At the time I thought how special the evening was, surrounded as I was by colleagues and friends and sharing so many good thoughts on life in general. At the time no one at the table had any idea of Tony’s recurrent disease. His laughter, his smile and his engaging conversation reflected more immortality than mortality. The evening became a divine banquet of both the brain and the table, with open and warm collegiality. That evening remains one of my most cherished reflections – looking back I now realize how remarkable a person Tony was, to have the ability to provide both a banquet for the brain and a banquet at the table at the same time.

Over the years Tony has been my *medicus*, my *magister* and my *amicus* – how many people do you know that can truly carry the appellation of physician, master, and friend. Tony was a great friend and a great teacher, who measured his success not in compilations of his own suc-

cesses but rather in the measured success of those whom he taught and worked with. As we look out into the pediatric neurosurgery community that success is truly wide ranging and in fact now covers several continents.

Tony was truly one of our giants. The shoulders he let us all stand on have allowed many of us to see our careers and project and even further them and, more importantly, improved the care of our patients. What I will best remember, and what I will cherish the most, is remembering his remarkable contribution to the human spirit – truly a rare and very special gift. An old adage has it that it is the fortunate two atoms that collide in a vacuum\* – that collision for me was truly most fortunate. I am sure that Tony is presently organizing a section for pediatric neurosurgeons up there in the sky – when we get there you can be assured the food will be superb, the wine freshly pressed and the conversation as universal as he was – what a remarkable figure and what a tremendous loss for our profession.

James T. Goodrich

New York, USA

(\*In infinito vacuo, ex fortuito atomorum collisione)

I first met Tony Raimondi in December 1992. Up to that time, I, like most neurosurgeons and certainly every pediatric neurosurgeon, knew of him through his scientific publications, including his textbook on “*Pediatric Neurosurgery*.” The circumstances of my first meeting with Tony were unusual. I had been invited by him to attend the first Academia for Pediatric Neurosurgery, which he had organized in Salzburg, ostensibly to discuss what constituted a pediatric neurosurgeon. At this meeting, Tony brought together a small group of neurosurgeons involved in pediatric neurosurgery, and we discussed our ideas about being a pediatric neurosurgeon, but also were encouraged to tell each other about what interested us in life apart from pediatric neurosurgery.

This first meeting with Tony allowed me to recognize some of his qualities. He was an innovator. He liked to try new things and implement new ideas, be it new scientific journals, new concepts for the journals, or new societies or organizations. Some of the new adventures would fail, but this did not matter. Tony seemed to take the approach that if the idea appeared to have merit, it was worth trying. Another thing that was clear to me from this first meeting with Tony was his strong conviction that it was important to develop interests outside the practice of neurosurgery and to enjoy the finer things that the world had to offer.

In the next many years, as I came to know him better, I was amazed at how much Tony was able to achieve at a time when many started to slow down and retired from neurosurgical activities. He had the ability to get things done and to enlist the support of colleagues in the field.

Tony was provocative and tried to get people to go beyond their usual boundaries. He was enthusiastic and was receptive to ideas of others.

Tony Raimondi was certainly one of the giants of pediatric neurosurgery. His passing leaves a void, which will be hard to fill, and he has left a legacy for the future.

Paul Steinbok

Vancouver, Canada

The name of Anthony Raimondi, one of the founders of pediatric neurosurgery, has become a legend in his lifetime. After many years in Chicago he returned to his native Europe, combining the best of the traditions of the old and new worlds. His editorial leadership will be sorely missed by his successors at the ESPN and ISPN. His personal style and hospitality, in which he was so ably abetted by his wife Lucia, and not least his wines, will scarcely be imitated.

In the Preface to the second and thoroughly revised edition of his authoritative textbook on “*Pediatric Neurosurgery*” he wrote: “It is my hope that the owner of this book will read it, at first as though it were a novel, and then refer to it as he would to a friend, a colleague, a teacher – but always conclude by trusting his own crooked eye.”

These words reflect his passion for our complicated profession.

We all knew that he was suffering from cancer, but the loss of his presence and leadership seem all too sudden.

Shlomi Constantini

Tel-Aviv, Israel

Dr. Anthony J. Raimondi appears to me ...

June 16, 2000 at Monteleone: it was the last day when we met.

You were warm, and Dr. Raimondi appears to me as a Saint;

Nothing else ...

October 15, 1973 in Tokyo: it was the first day when I saw you.

You were worldwide, and Dr. Raimondi appears to me as a Professor;

Nothing else ...

December 31, 1979 in Chicago: it was the last day when we operated together.

You were the textbook, and Dr. Raimondi appears to me as a Teacher;

Nothing else ...

December 24, 1983 in churches: it was the first day when we prayed for each other.

You were religious, and Dr. Raimondi appears to me as a Father;  
Nothing else ...

Shizuo Oi  
Tokyo, Japan

Professor Raimondi (Tony) was not the first pediatric neurosurgeon in the United States but he should be given credit for the creation of the worldwide specialty of pediatric neurosurgery. Our specialty owes its current strength and especially its current “World View” to Tony’s vision and creative leadership. Prior to the early 1970s, neurosurgeons were practicing in children’s hospitals and there were a handful of publications dealing with pediatric neurosurgery but these neurosurgeons met to discuss pertinent at general neurosurgical meetings and in the halls of the hospitals. At this point Tony became the catalyst for the formation of a number of organizations devoted to the treatment of children with neurosurgical conditions. Using his existing friendships and personal charisma he was one of the founding members of the Section of Pediatric Neurosurgery of the AANS (1973), the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery (1973), and the American Society for Pediatric Neurosurgeons (1978). He also served as president of the European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery and was an honorary member of both the Japanese and Korean Societies of Pediatric Neurosurgery.

The fellowship at Children’s Memorial in Chicago under Professor Raimondi’s direction trained many of the American and international leaders in pediatric neurosurgery. Leaders such as Professors Satoshi Matsumoto from Japan and Concezio Di Rocco from Italy have progressed to be essentially the founders of pediatric neurosurgery in their own regions. American pediatric neurosurgical leaders, including Drs. David McLone, Yoon Hahn, and Donald Reigel, received at least a significant part of their pediatric neurosurgery training under Tony. The list goes on and on. This commitment to the education of future leaders created the intimate feeling that exists within the international community of pediatric neurosurgery.

Tony was ever an educator and founded at least three journals, including *Child’s Nervous System*, which is the official journal of a large number of regional and national pediatric neurosurgical societies and the ISPN. His writings will be quoted in a large percentage of the publications on subjects related to pediatric neurosurgery for the foreseeable future. All of us who practice pediatric neurosurgery owe him a great debt. He has left a great legacy in the commitment of hundreds of among the best and the brightest neurosurgeons to the care of the children of the whole world.

Tony was the ultimate host. Whether it be at multi-starred restaurants or at his winery outside of Verona, Italy, none of us will forget his warmth and hospitality. He will be long remembered.

Harold L. ReKate  
Phoenix, USA

As a naïve first-year Northwestern medical student in 1979, little did I know that the assignment of Anthony J. Raimondi as my advisor would dramatically change my life forever. Immediately attracted to his unique style and cognizant of his genius as I was, a deep friendship – no, a love – developed.

His passion for neurosurgery was infectious, and that passion became mine; I was his last resident in neurosurgery at Northwestern.

As a medical student, I was awed by the artistry of his teachings and his deep understanding of the brain’s anatomy. With four slide projectors working in symphony, my medical school classmates and I sat on the edge of our seats in amazement. During ward rounds he would often stop and make a quick sketch emphasizing a particular anatomical point. These drawings were astonishingly accurate and beautiful.

He demanded a lot from us, but we knew that to him we were more than residents. We were his children. Late-night dinners at the finest restaurants in Chicago were commonplace. Multiple bottles of the finest wine led to animated conversation on all matters of life. The importance of family, the role of men and women in the family, and religion were common topics.

Dr. Raimondi taught his residents style, and more importantly, that to be involved in neurosurgery is a sacred honor. He often operated using only the lights that focused on the brain, while standing barefoot in the patient’s blood. When I asked him why, he said it made him feel more at one with the patient – a religious experience.

He was a master of positioning the patient for an approach. I believe one could spin the brain around, blindfold Dr. Raimondi and ask him to point to a particular structure in its depth, and he could accurately do this. I remember him operating on a woman with a difficult aneurysm that suddenly ruptured. Blood immediately filled the exposure despite two large bore suctions. Unruffled, he turned his head and said, “My 30-degree down-pointing loops, please.” He calmly changed his magnifying glasses and expertly placed an aneurysm clip through the pool of blood. The patient went on to make an uneventful recovery, and I believe this was because of his unique three-dimensional understanding of neurovascular anatomy.

He earned the respect of all who knew him well.

When Sue and I were first married he said he had a little gift for us. Months went by and we had forgotten

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all about this, until one summer day a huge removal van pulled up in front of our tiny Oak Park home. “Lady, where do you want us to put this?” the men asked. They proceeded to unload an entire truck filled with the contents of Dr. Raimondi’s personal library; his office equipment including desks, cameras and the four slide projectors; ophthalmoscopes; and original drawings and manuscripts. This filled our entire basement to overflowing! Some 20 years later, I sit in Dr. Raimondi’s chair at work and prize his original drawings. Sue and I still laugh at our astonishment on that summer day.

Although we went our separate ways, I to practice pediatric neurosurgery and he to Italy, our friendship continued, primarily through regular correspondence, treasured letters and e-mail. Dinners at his villa and here in Chicago remain cherished memories. He continued to teach my wife, our children and myself about life. Always evident was his love for and mastery of language. Recently, I asked his advice on the name I had chosen for my new sailboat. He responded, “Bramare [brah-mahra] in Italian means to desire strongly – or any combination of the verb forms expressing this. It is Gothic in origin (like you!), meaning to scream with desire. So ... I guess you have the name of your boat.”

At a small restaurant on a warm summer night in Rome, Dr. Raimondi asked me to be trustee for his will, an honor I deeply respect. I recently received my last letter from him; the time had come to say goodbye. He acknowledged our mutual love and respect. He said he knew, because of our shared Midwest Catholic beliefs, that we would continue to communicate in the future. Sue and I both cried.

Fortunately, we were able to honor Dr. Raimondi 2 years ago by dedicating the Midwest Children’s Brain Tumor Center to him. At the dedication ceremony, where Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley presented him with his award, his former teacher, Dr. Sean Mullan, acknowledged Dr. Raimondi’s influence on much of modern-day neurosurgery, saying, “We stand on the shoulders of his accomplishment.”

In November 1999, he again was recognized in Chicago for his accomplishments. We all smiled warmly as he danced with vigor among his “family.” Over 500 of his children applauded this great man. Though the applause may fade, my memories of his spirit and influence will not.

John R. Ruge  
Chicago, USA