



BOSTON COLLEGE

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Office of the President
Ramazzini Institute
Via Libia 13/A
40138 Bologna
Italy

Dear President Masotti,

I am in receipt of your email of yesterday, informing the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the Ramazzini Institute that the Institute's Board of Directors has approved the appointment of Dr. Alessandro Nanni Costa as Director of Strategy and Scientific Direction of the Ramazzini Institute

We appreciate your having informed us of this decision. However, we express our deep disappointment that apart from your brief meeting with us in Carpi in October you did not consult with the International Scientific Advisory Committee before making your decision.

For many years, we on the International Scientific Advisory Committee have viewed ourselves as partners to your office and to the League of Cooperatives in Bologna in the direction of the Ramazzini Institute. We have provided guidance and worked with your predecessors to protect the scientific integrity of the Institute in difficult times, for example, when Dr. Morando Soffritti and the Institute came under attack for their findings that aspartame causes cancer. Now you have made a major decision with great implications for the future of the Institute without even consulting us.

Research undertaken in the Ramazzini Institute since the time of Professor Cesare Maltoni has produced groundbreaking discoveries on the impacts of toxic chemicals on human

health. Findings from this research have saved the lives of millions of people around the world. From the very beginning, a key feature of this research has been its independence of vested interest from the companies that produce and sell toxic chemicals such as asbestos, tobacco, aspartame, and pesticides. I know that the independent research of the Ramazzini Institute has been a source of great pride to you and to the City of Bologna.

We deeply regret your decision to dismiss Dr. Mandrioli. We consider Dr. Mandrioli to be a superb scientist who has conducted outstanding research, secured millions of euros in external research funding, and elevated the scientific reputation of the Ramazzini Institute as we described in detail in our letter to you of November 19.

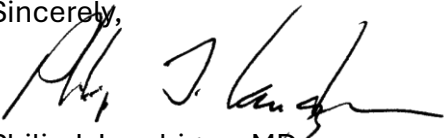
But beyond the dismissal of Dr. Mandrioli, we are deeply concerned that your decision may signal an end to the independence of the Ramazzini Institute's research. Dr. Mandrioli, like Drs. Maltoni, Soffritti, and Belpoggi before him, has been subjected to vicious attacks by the chemical industry because the findings of the Institute's independent research have cost these companies money and hurt their bottom line. The attacks on Dr. Mandrioli have increased in intensity in recent months since publication of the results of the Global Glyphosate Study, which found that glyphosate causes dose-related increases in cancer at multiple anatomic sites in experimental animals, most notably increases in leukemia.

We are deeply disappointed that you have chosen not to stand behind and support Dr. Mandrioli during this difficult time, as we have stood with you and the Institute in difficult times past. As scientists who distrust coincidence, we cannot escape the possibility that your actions may have been influenced by the vested interests who are attacking Dr. Mandrioli. We hope that this is not the case.

For 1000 years, the city of Bologna has been revered across the world as a city of learning, a place of enlightenment, a municipality in which independent research could be pursued for the benefit of humankind. The work of the Ramazzini Institute is fully in line with this long and proud tradition, and we on the International Scientific Advisory Committee have been honored to be a part of this tradition. We sincerely hope that through your actions you are not tarnishing this noble legacy and harming the reputation of Bologna.

January 22 of this year will mark the 25th anniversary of the death of Professor Cesare Maltoni. We hope that on this sacred day you will recommit yourselves to preservation of the independence of the scientific research of the Ramazzini Institute.

Sincerely,



Philip J. Landrigan, MD