

OBITUARY

Alessandro Zuddas, 1957-2022



Our friend, colleague, and ECNP Fellow Alessandro Zuddas left us on 9 July 2022. Prof. Zuddas was professor of child neuropsychiatry at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Section of Neuroscience and Clinical Pharmacology, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy.

Prof. Zuddas had always been very much involved with ECNP. Until very recently he chaired the ECNP Child and Adolescent Network, co-ordinated the ECNP School of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychopharmacology in Venice since the

very first year, and was very participatory in all our congresses and activities, including many EU-funded grants. Alessandro's unique contribution to the whole field of child and adolescent psychiatry is outstanding. He was a mentor and teacher for generations of the trainees and students that he inspired and supported

Above all, and besides his many scientific contributions in the field of developmental psychopharmacology, he was energetic, honest, intelligent, trustworthy, enthusiastic, and a role model for his students. He always had a smile and a potential solution for any problem that arose, regardless of how important or unimportant it was. Issues were always less daunting when Alessandro was around. He was always caring and, on the top of everything, he was always anticipating everyone's potential needs. He was for many of us one of the best and most supportive colleagues we ever had, an extraordinary wonderful person of deep humanity.

Prof. Zuddas earned his medical degree from the University of Cagliari, where he also completed residencies in pharmacology and child neuropsychiatry. He did his basic neuroscience training as a Fogarty Fellow at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS-NIH) in Bethesda, MD. After a period at the Institute of Pharmacology, University of Pisa, he was head of the Centre for Pharmacological Therapies in Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Cagliari. Since October 2011, Prof. Zuddas had been also the director of the Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry Unit at Cagliari University Hospital (currently "G. Brotzu" Hospital Trust) and co-ordinator of the resident programme in child neuropsychiatry at University of Cagliari.

He was the principal investigator in a number of research studies on developmental psychopathology and psychopharmacology, including several EU-funded projects, many of those through the ECNP Child and Adolescent Network.

Alessandro's death leaves a great gap for all of us. He will always be remembered and deeply missed. Our hearts, thoughts and all sympathy are with his wife Manuela and his children, Andrea and Chiara, and his many friends.

Venice will never be Venice again without Alessandro. Rest in peace.

Celso Arango
Past-President