

MARIO MARTE: *In memoriam*

The Journal of Plant Pathology regrets to announce that Professor Mario Marte, a member of its Editorial Board, passed away on 29 November 2003 after fighting bravely a fatal illness. Prof. Marte was born in Rome in 1940, graduated in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Perugia in 1965 and, shortly afterwards, joined the Institute of Plant Pathology of the Faculty of Agriculture, where he spent his entire academic career. After study leaves in the Institutes of Botany of the University of Vienna, Plant Biology of the University of Paris, and Plant Pathology of the University of Bonn, where he specialized in *in vivo* microscopic techniques, histology, cytology, and epidemiology of fungal pathogens; in 1983 he was appointed Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Perugia and Full Professor of the same discipline in 1989. He was at the head of the Institute of Plant Pathology from 1987 to 1993.

Prof. Marte had a long-lasting and keen interest in histopathology and cytopathology, also at the ultrastructural level, an area in which he gave the most significant contributions. He did not neglect, however, investigating the aetiology of fungal, bacterial, viral, and abiotic diseases, the epidemiology of nematode and aphid-borne viruses, as well as the physiological and microscopic aspects of virus-induced resistance to fungal pathogens. He very much believed in the value of science based on original insight and use of appropriate and modern techniques. Prof. Marte has published more than 80 research papers, about half of which on refereed international journals. He was superb in working with students, which included teaching courses in Plant Pathology, Plant Virology, and Mycology, as well as serving as an advisor on thesis research projects. His insight, knowledge and guidance ability attracted students, whom he assisted without sparing himself up to the very last few days of his working life. Prof. Marte served most actively as Associate Editor of the Journal of Plant Pathology since the year 2000. He will long be remembered for his contribution to the well-being of the Journal, his mentorship, and dedication to science.

