

# Presenting the Board of *Respiration*: Alfredo Chetta

Alfredo Chetta is one of *Respiration*'s Associate Editors and a professor of respiratory medicine at the University of Parma in Italy. He is specialized in functional assessment of the lung.

## 1 Give a Short Description of Who You Are

My name is Alfredo Chetta, and I graduated *cum laude* from the School of Medicine of Catholic University in Rome in 1978, and in 1982, I obtained the diploma in Respiratory Diseases at the University of Parma, Italy. Currently, I am Full Professor in Respiratory Medicine at the University of Parma and Head of Pneumology Unit at the University Hospital of Parma. The Parma University Hospital is a highly specialized multispecialist hospital, which offers citizens a complete spectrum of diagnostic, therapeutic, and rehabilitation services in the field of respiratory diseases.



Alfredo Chetta

## 2 How Did You Become Interested in the Field of Respiratory Medicine?

My first contact with the respiratory medicine was in the internship while preparing the degree thesis, which was concerning the assessment of the bronchial hyperactivity in asthma. Since then, my main field of interest has been the functional assessment of the lung. Over the

last decade, I have developed a particular interest in investigating small airway function in asthma and COPD and in assessing exercise tolerance of the cardiopulmonary patient.

## 3 Which Exciting Developments Are Currently Taking Place in This Field?

Investigation and assessment of lung function are fundamental to the respiratory medicine. It is worth underlining that, currently, small airways and exercise tolerance are two of the most intriguing fields to lung function researchers. Small airways are the site of the initial

damage in COPD, and their involvement in asthma determines the severity of the disease. The use of study techniques of the small airway, such as the lung clearance index or the impulse oscillometry system, has allowed to clarify many aspects of this “silent zone” of the lung. On the other hand, the assessment of the exercise tolerance by the cardiopulmonary exercise test is a fascinating model of investigation of three vital functions: respiratory, cardiovascular, and muscular, and their interactions.

#### **4 What Do You Feel Makes *Respiration* Special in the Publishing Landscape and Are There Any Particular Papers You Would Like to See Submitted to the *Journal*?**

*Respiration* is one the oldest medical journals among the European respiratory journals. Importantly, *Respiration* has over time had the ability to update itself and to be always in tune with the respiratory scientific community. Furthermore, the judgment independence in its editorial choices has always guaranteed its scientific authoritativeness. I hope that *Respiration* continues to publish articles on all aspects of respiratory medicine, giving enough room to issues related to respiratory function.