



Gallieno Denardo: A pillar of ICTP and a Close Friend



Gallieno Denardo (right) and Orazio Svelto (left). (The picture was taken after the conference at Laboratorio dell'Immaginario Scientifico of Trieste in 1991. Copyright of Italfoto Trieste, by permission).

Gallieno Denardo was the coordinator of the optics and laser program at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) of Trieste and professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Trieste. Denardo has been with ICTP since its beginning, serving as a long-time head of the Office of External Activities. He played a fundamental role in establishing and running all ICTP activities on optics, including the schools and workshops, the laboratory, and the ICO-ICTP Award now named after him. I had the privilege to collaborate with Gallieno for many years starting from the early beginning and I remember this collaboration as one of the most pleasant and rewarding activity of my life. Collaboration was always easy and very productive and we became very close friends.

In what follows, I will describe activities spanning for a time longer than 20 years (roughly from 1982 to 2003) and wherein I was personally involved. These activities include: (1) The LAMP activities, (2) Common organization of an international meeting, (3) Joint publication of an informative booklet on Lasers.

The LAMP Activities [1]

Atomic, molecular and laser physics were introduced in the curriculum of ICTP by the late Professor Alfred Kastler (France), Nobel Laureate for Physics in 1966 and Chairman of the ICTP Scientific Council from 1971 to 1982. Courses on atomic, molecular and laser physics have been held every second year since 1977. Due to the increased specialization of the corresponding disciplines, part of the atomic, molecular and laser physics was later on (i.e. from 1981) included as a LAMP (Laser, Atomic and Molecular Physics) activity. It included lasers, atomic and molecular spectroscopy, quantum optics and optical fiber communications. The other part was transferred to the sector of condensed matter – atomic and molecular physics for which separate activities were planned.

The LAMP activities included: (1) Extended courses and colleges, (2) Conferences and topical meetings, (3) Internal training on lasers and optical fibers, (4) External training at Italian laboratories and (5) Programs in the developing countries. For Laser Physics and Fiber Optics, the activities were coordinated by a Committee which I chaired and included other very notable scientists in the field (F T Arcchi, R Bonifacio, Ali Javan, F Schäfer and G Denardo). For atomic and molecular laser spectroscopy the Committee was chaired by G. Amat and also included very notable researchers in the field (A Dymanus, E Arimondo, S Svanberg and G Denardo). Extended courses and colleges were run every year, having an average duration of 4 weeks and each time covering a different aspect of the subject. Attendance was mostly consisting of researchers coming from developing countries. For a selected fraction of these researchers a training activity was also planned in Italian laboratories for a more extended period of time (1 year). I have been following these activities since 1981 up to perhaps 2003. Collaboration with Gallieno was always easy and fruitful and, I said above, we thus became very close friends.

Organization of an International Conference [2]

The Ninth International Symposium on “Ultrafast Processes in Spectroscopy” (UPS '95), was held at ICTP from October 30 to November 3, 1995. These kind of meetings had become recognized as the major forum in Europe for discussion of new work in this rapidly moving field. The UPS'95 Conference in Trieste brought together a multidisciplinary group of researchers sharing a common interest in the generation of ultrashort optical pulses and their applications to studies of ultrafast phenomena in Physics, Chemistry, Material Sciences, Electronics and Biology. It was attended by approximately 250 participants from 20 countries and the five-day program comprised more than 200 papers. I was the Chairman of the Symposium, S. De Silvestri acted as a Chairman of the International Program Committee, and Gallieno Denardo acted as the Chairman of the Local Organization Committee. I can also add, as a conclusion, that the careful organization provided by Gallieno and his staff was quite fundamental for the success of such an important international meeting.

Informative Booklet on Lasers [3]

This booklet belongs to the so-called *Quaderni di Laboratorio* which reproduce transcriptions of conferences taken at *Laboratorio dell'Immaginario Scientifico* of Trieste. This Laboratory is located in Trieste and has the purpose, through these *Quaderni* (about 15) to offer a precise and interesting contact with aspects of contemporary science which has become a reference point of our everyday life, An interesting property of this booklet (30 pages) is that the Physics of Lasers is first introduced together with a detailed general description of coherent and incoherent light. Applications of Lasers are then covered at some length. Another characteristic feature of this work is to include a “debate” section, where all questions raised during the conference and afterwards are duly considered and discussed.

References

1. *The Physics of Lasers and Optical Fibers at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics*, (Published by ICTP, Trieste), 1989.
2. *Ultrafast Processes in Spectroscopy*, Svelto O, De Silvestri S, Denardo G, eds, (Plenum Press, N.Y.), 1995.
3. *Gallieno Denardo e Orazio Svelto, La Fisica del Laser*, (Società Editoriale Libreria p.a., Trieste), 1991.

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