Mario Capozi (1944-2017)

The Synchrotron Radiation community lost Mario Capozi this year. He was an extraordinary technician whose activity is strongly connected to the development of Synchrotron Radiation in Italy.

Since 1975 he collaborated, within the PULS (Programma Utilizzazione Luce di Sincrotrone) laboratory, a collaboration programme between I.N.F.N. and C.N.R., to the project of modifying the Adone storage ring in Frascati to utilize the bending magnet synchrotron radiation emission of the storage ring. This was the first facility in Italy partly dedicated to Synchrotron Radiation. Mario’s contribution was extraordinary in all technical aspects of synchrotron radiation, such as ultra high vacuum, optics, electronics and computing. His expertise was fundamental in designing and commissioning the several beam lines installed on Adone.

From 1979 he was mainly involved in the group of Dr. Paolo Perfetti, participating to the technical and scientific activity of the low energy photoemission beam line of Adone. We would like to stress that his contribution went well beyond the purely technical one; in fact, he had passed all the examinations of the laurea course of study but never obtained the corresponding degree in Physics due to serious medical problems. He was coauthor of more than 42 scientific papers published on international journals.

When the synchrotron radiation activity shifted to ELETTRA, the storage ring built in Trieste, the group of Dr. Perfetti designed and built one of the first two photoemission beam lines and again Mario’s contribution was of fundamental importance in the commissioning of the VUV beam line, that in 1994 was one of the beamlines with best energy resolution in the world. Moreover, Mario contributed to the building of the ELETTRA ring itself.

He was the reference in Synchrotron radiation support activities of C.N.R. group, he was the responsible of the preparation laboratory (Metallizzatore) and strongly contributed to the instrumental design, building and operation of the Inverse Photoemission apparatus.

Among Mario’s other activities, it is worth mentioning his contribution to the performance tests of MEPHISTO in 1998, which was one of the novel synchrotron imaging photoelectron spectromicroscopes designed and built by Dr. G. De Stasio on the storage ring Alladin in Madison, Wisconsin (U.S.A.). He also contributed to the commissioning of the ID32 beamline and the initial Ultra High Vacuum surface diffraction experiments at ESRF, Grenoble (France).

Mario was well known among the synchrotron radiation community and will be greatly missed; we would like recall his extraordinary attitude in designing new measurements, great ability in solving problems in emergency situations and building long lasting ingenious tools. Last, but not least, for his kindness and openheartedness.