

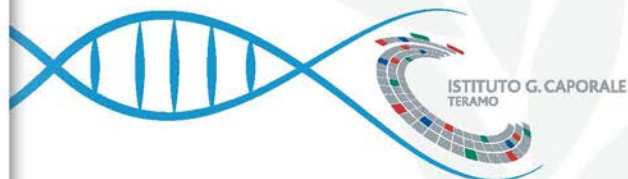


ISTITUTO G. CAPORALE
TERAMO



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AWARDED FOR ITS INNOVATION POLICIES



The President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, presents the Award for innovation to the Institute's Director, Vincenzo Caporale.

Over the past 70 years, the G. Caporale Institute has managed to generate wealth by confronting itself with a wide variety of interlocutors from political, economic and territorial spheres as well as with international scientific institutions, and organisations such as WHO, FAO and OIE. For the last two decades, the Institute has developed into a credible producer of advanced scientific knowledge. Such knowledge today is applied worldwide in scientific, cultural, social and economic fields.

Quality processes, technical and scientific innovation and performance enhancement have led the Institute to obtain a special mention within the "Premiamo i risultati" (Let's award results) contest promoted by the Italian Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation. Such mention was received upon the 2009 implementation of an exemplary project aimed at the rationalisation of costs, technological

enhancement, customer services and stakeholders' integration. Besides the prizing of its efficient organisational model, the Institute has further been awarded for its innovation excellence. In fact, by distinguishing itself amongst the Public Administrations that were awarded with the "Premiamo i risultati" special mention, the Institute was also bestowed with the National Award for Innovation 2010, alias the "Premio dei premi" (Award of awards) prize. This very prestigious prize was instituted by a Prime Minister's decree and granted by the President of the Republic. It was conceived in order to enhance the best innovative and creative skills of Companies, Universities, Administrations and Organisations. The ultimate aim of this important prize is to promote and foster a culture of innovation in Italy.

These honours do not only elicit the Institute's great pride, but they also represent a constant motivating force to the pursuit of new goals for the future.





The G. Caporale Institute is the youngest Italian Experimental Research Institute on Animal Diseases, founded in 1941 in the ancient city of Teramo on the slopes of the Gran Sasso, where its headquarters are still located. At the time of its constitution the Institute was an interprovincial Consortium between the administrations of Teramo and Ascoli Piceno. In 1974 its jurisdiction was extended to the Regions of Abruzzo and Molise. Other diagnostics divisions are to be found in Avezzano, Campobasso, Isernia, Lanciano and Pescara. The Experimental Regional Fishery and Aquaculture Centre is located on the Adriatic coast in the city of Termoli whereas the International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information (CIFIV) "Francesco Gramenzi" rises on the Teramo hills, in a renovated countryside residence in Collettarrato, as well as in the Cerrano Tower, in

Pineto. In 1945 the Institute numbered a total of five employees. Today, it is a dynamic entity employing around 500 individuals. Its veterinarians, biologists, chemists and many other professionals represent a great team capable of competing on the international scale.

The G. Caporale Institute is a Health Agency governed under public law, with goals such as the human physical, mental and social well-being through the knowledge and application of veterinary sciences. It aims to provide citizens with adequate answers to public health needs. It does so, through its continuous and solid research and experimentation efforts directed towards an integrated system combining "Animal Health - Animal Welfare - Food Safety". Such is the fundamental system that guides the Institute through all its activities, project implementations and development strategies.

The Institute's quali-quantitative growth is mainly attrib-

utable to the company's policy of the early 90s. Such policy translated into a rational development process and the creation of a flexible organisational model. Withstanding its loyalty to its function as a technical and scientific Agency offering Veterinary Public Health services, the Institute was capable of going beyond the anachronistic Institute/User binomial in favour of a more effective Producer/Client approach in order to ensure internal and external demand satisfaction.

It is also thanks to this new policy that in 1995 the Institute became the first veterinarian public Agency in Italy to be accredited according to international quality regulations three years ahead the European Union deadline.

The Institute's innovation policy is retraceable since its early history. As a matter of fact, already in the 50s the Institute was the first to establish a clinic for pets, a bovine artificial fecundation centre for centre-southern Italy, the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institutes' chemistry laboratory and the Croce Azzurra journal, now known as Veterinaria Italiana and which has been reporting the scientific production of all Institutes for over 20 years. Moreover, the Institute was also the first Italian Veterinary Agency to establish a serology laboratory, a training sector and a veterinary epidemiology laboratory. For the past 20 years, because of the progressive decline of the zootechnical heritage, the Institute has identified new scientific development strategies aiming to offer appropriate

services capable of meeting sanitary, zootechnical and economic changes, while aware of operating within the European Union.

The Institute's mission today fosters an internationalisation policy in order to guarantee highly innovative services to global markets. These Veterinary Public Health and environmental protection services are conceived to safeguard human and animal health. Research and experimental activities are conducted through specific projects funded privately as well as through the Italian Government, the European Union and some non-European countries. The Institute's traditional clients are the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Health, the Abruzzo and Molise Regions, the Local Health Agencies but also farmers and stockbreeders, food and feed producers, zootechnical goods and services suppliers and customers. The Institute is increasingly committed to training and international cooperation: risk analysis, food safety, animal welfare, laboratories' quality and the realisation and management of animal vital statistics databases are the main activities performed also and mainly in developing countries. Reference Centres and National Reference Laboratories are a technical and scientific instrument of the Ministry of Health. Their Headquarters are located at the Institute. Finally the Institute also hosts the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre and International Reference Laboratories.





HEALTH, PRODUCTION AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal health and public health are strictly intertwined. The diagnosis and surveillance of diseases in the veterinary field are activities that help ensure food safety and control of animal diseases, including exotic diseases and those transmissible to humans, i.e., zoonoses. Research and experimentation are at the core of the Institute's activities. The Institute annually releases diagnostic aids and uncountable doses of prophylactics in order to detect and counter the

pathogenic activities of bacteria, viruses and other human endangering organisms.

In order to protect and improve the sanitary status of animals, the Institute provides public and private organisations in Italy and abroad, with cultivation grounds, diagnostic kits, serums and vaccines.

On behalf of the Ministry of Health, the Institute produces vaccines against exotic diseases and Brucellosis.

The Institute also provides veterinarians and breeders





with specific vaccines, starting from the isolation of the micro-organism responsible for the disease.

Tuberculosis, leishmaniasis and salmonellosis are only a few of the diseases for which production laboratories produce sanitary aids to protect livestock as well as pets.

The Institute is committed on a daily basis to the development of new products, according to biotechnological innovative procedures.

The Institute only operates in compliance with the rules that govern animal welfare. It is in fact a firm belief, that food is healthiest when it comes from

healthy animals raised in accordance with best practices and in the absence of stress.

The G. Caporale Institute recognises and promotes the educational and therapeutic value of animals. In fact, for over twenty years, it has been also focusing on the professional training of operators, the animal training for pet therapy purposes, and the creation of educational and therapeutic methods.

The Institute operates within and promotes the principles for a correct, economically viable and ethically acceptable relationship between humans, animals, and the environment.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Since the 90s, the Institute has collaborated closely with leading international organisations such as WHO, FAO, and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Based on the firm belief that only the exchange of experiences between different cultures can allow for the growth and consolidation into an international reference point, the extension of scientific horizons was deemed essential.

The G. Caporale Institute was one of the first medical institutions in Italy to pioneer a prestigious international policy based on the transmission of its knowledge to other countries.

This development policy is now confirmed by the need for a supranational approach with regard to the health protection of animal populations and the risk assessment of animal products.

In a “globalised” world, where diseases have an increasingly higher chance of rapid expansion, the G. Caporale Institute is at the forefront of international cooperation; aware that ensuring the health of food raw materials directly in their countries of production also means protecting one's own country.

The Institute has close cooperative ties with more than 90 countries worldwide. Main project areas are Eastern Europe, Latin America and Africa.

In these countries the Institute provides its expertise to bring food safety and animal health and welfare up to international standards; thereby contributing to the overall improvement of living conditions and public health.

Through “twinning” projects, the Institute addresses health issues participating in equal measure to both efforts and benefits: while the Institute offers its know-how and expertise, it acquires new knowledge on field.





EDUCATION



The Institute is continuously committed to producing knowledge and sharing it through the Francesco Gramenzi International Centre for Veterinary Training and Information. The Centre's locations are two: one is situated in an old farmhouse surrounded by the green Teramo countryside, the other overlooks the Adriatic Sea from the fascinating sixteenth century Torre del Cerrano. Every year, the Centre trains approximately 2000 professionals from diverse fields, e.g., veterinary sciences, public and private

health institutions, food processing companies and schools. It further offers programs of distance learning through innovative e-Learning systems. Since 2004, all training activities are accredited according to international standards of quality.

Education, research and international cooperation are only made possible by the Institute's ability to obtain funding through agreements, research projects and twinning with the Ministry of Health, the European Union, many foreign countries, and international organisations.



COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

The Institute's growth has been supported all along by its communication and global information diffusion policies. Such policies rely on the integration of hardware, software, computer networks and new and old technologies in order to interact with experts worldwide and better inform the public. The Institute's communication efforts have always been striving to bridge the gap between science and public opinion by conveying technical topics through a more popular parlance yet strictly withstanding scientific rigour. Communication is mainly transmitted through the Web; a highly regarded instrument capable of combining the transmission of clear, simple and synthetic messages. Over the years the Institute has chosen to focus on audiovisual communication to allow for faces and voices to be associated to the experts

that are continuously involved in food, health and environmental safety activities. Integrated communication further consists in the distribution of brochures and traditional publications as well as editorials on local and national press, postcards and posters, television announcements and programs also transmitted on the web.

Scientific information is insured through the "Veterinaria Italiana" journal, published in Italian as well as in English and distributed worldwide on paper and online, and the "Portale della conoscenza" (Knowledge portal) where it is possible for visitors to easily access the entire collection of the Institute's researchers' publications. Finally, database connections and Information retrieval services offer access to over 2,000 scientific reviews and the approximately 4,500 volumes composing the Library.



VETERINARIA ITALIANA

RIVISTA DI SANITÀ PUBBLICA VETERINARIA



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VOLUME 47 (1) - G



*L'Istituto G. Caporale e Vir Pflüger ancora insieme al
Premio Di Venanzo*



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FOOD SAFETY

The control of feed and food safety is one of the Institute's core concerns as it represents the basis for public health protection.

Ensuring food safety involves the assessment and monitoring of risks to consumer health with respect to the environment and the production chain. In the Institute laboratories, food is inspected in order to detect the potential presence of pathogenic organisms and toxic substances, through microbiological, chemical and radiometric methods. With the advent of globalisation, food safety has become an issue of utmost importance. The free exchange of goods and animals have in fact increased the spread of disease and the risk of counterfeit and altered products.

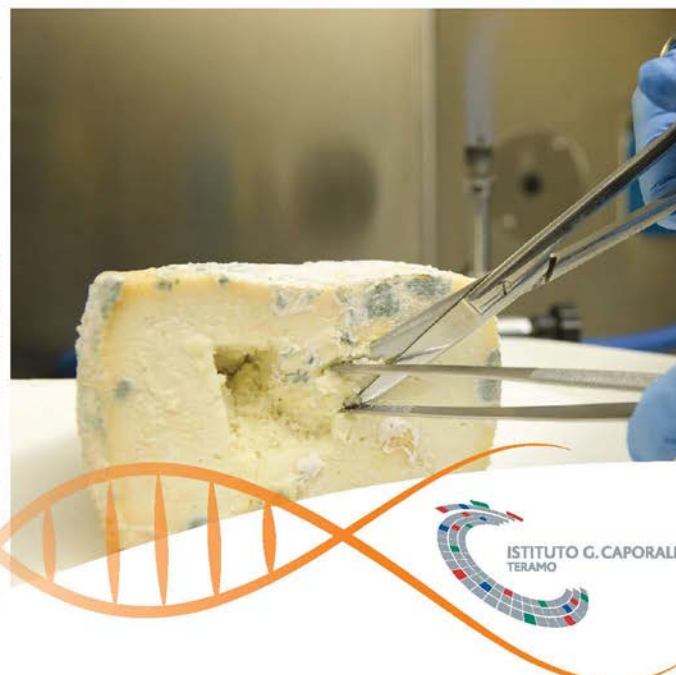
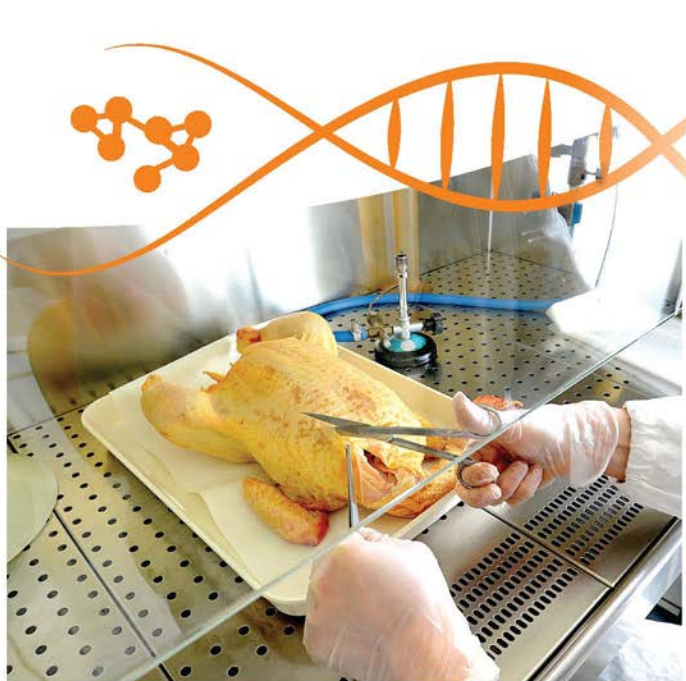
The Institute plays a leading role in emergencies and food frauds, as in the case of dioxin: a dangerous chemical that tends to accumulate in the soil and pass onto animal and human tissues. Through risk

assessment and management, the Institute also collaborates in the implementation of European Union policies based on scientifically valid, measurable and verifiable health and safety objectives.

The Institute strongly commits to the promotion of Food Safety and Education principals so that only healthy food products reach citizens' tables.

Today more than ever, consumers need to be aware about the risks related to nutrition and pay attention to what they eat. To ensure product safety, it is crucial for them to purchase their food from trusted suppliers, selecting products carefully and always checking labels. Acknowledging that, to this end, the traceability of foodstuffs is extremely important; the Institute is continuously committed to the development of innovative methods and advanced technologies for the management and enhancement of the Livestock Registry.





ANIMAL REGISTRY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

In 2002, the Ministry of Health commissioned the G. Caporale Institute to create and manage the database of the National Registry of Animal Husbandry, the first essential step to ensure the safety of consumer products and the accuracy of their labels. The Registry is based on the actual recording of Italian livestock and is a great aid for monitoring the health status of animals and assessing environmental impact. It is also an important tool for the prevention of epidemics and the timely intervention on cases of sanitary incidents. Farms and aquaculture facilities are registered in the Registry of Animal Husbandry. Information on livestock facilities, regarding cattle, buffalo, sheep and goats, is recorded,

and data about each animal's life and movements, from birth to slaughter, are registered.

The Animal Registry is integrated into the Data Processing Centre. Recognising the importance of computer processing of the data, the Institute was one of the first research centres in Europe to invest in information and knowledge management with web-based tools.

The Institute has been online since 1995. Today, it can count on electronics engineers, programmers and statisticians, who develop information systems related to animal health, food safety and diagnostic activities. Information systems are governed by the Ministry of Health to the benefit of scientific and technical communities worldwide.





ENVIRONMENT

The Institute plays an important role in the defence and improvement of the environment. It develops activities in direct contact with the territory, contributing to the “sustainable development” of the country. It is committed to monitoring the presence and levels of environmental contaminants. This continuous research is especially important for territory management purposes in times of emergencies, caused by levels of pollution or accidents that can dangerously jeopardise food security and the ecosystem.

The Institute is engaged in the analysis of the environment's radioactivity by carrying out investigation on foods and different samples of grass, mushrooms, mosses, and soils taken from the “protected areas” under its jurisdiction, which is also recognised as one of the “greenest” in Europe. The monitoring of waters and the marine biology investigations allow the Institute to keep under control the health of the Middle Adriatic sea and its fish resources, while always promoting balanced fishing regulations.

The maintaining of biodiversity is accomplished through a series of projects aiming to protect the territory's wildlife, such as the restocking with White clawed crayfish in the rivers of Abruzzo.





EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Institute is a complex, strong organisation capable of intervening quickly and effectively on emergencies caused by natural disasters and epidemic outbreaks. The tragic event of the earthquake that struck L'Aquila is a tangible example.

The Institute was commissioned by the Italian government to coordinate the crisis unit in managing the veterinarian emergency and help ease the difficulties of the 70,000 people involved. It has been called upon to intervene in cases of national and international importance, such as the presence of dioxin in buffalo mozzarella and melamine in milk imported from China. The Institute has also worked on several emergency epidemics in Italy, namely Bluetongue, Brucellosis, and West Nile Disease.

The Institute is the only Italian veterinarian body with an emergency mobile laboratory: a self-contained structure transportable by truck, ship and aircraft that allows for swift action in any situation in Italy and abroad.








The G. Caporale Institute of Teramo is constantly at the forefront of Public Health Service, making the integrated system combining "Animal Health - Animal Welfare - Food Safety" its fundamental objective. Its knowledge and expertise represent an authoritative reference for the National Health Service and an asset to the country's development needs. The Institute operates gazing at the world and future generations.





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