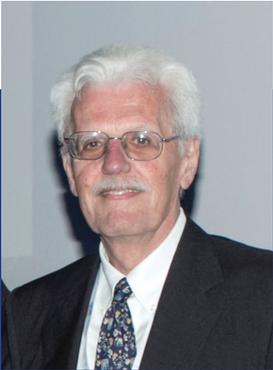


## The Presidents



2000\_ Stefano Di Donato  
Milan, Italy

### 1. Reasons for joining the ENS

I joined the ENS as a member of the executive committee in 1992, after an invitation by Anita Harding with whom I had an intense professional and human relationship as we were both interested in mitochondrial disorders and ataxias and in Europe.

### 2. On the values and missions of the ENS

I saw the ENS, at that time, as a fresh society of motivated and cultured professionals in Neurology and Neuroscience with little link with the bureaucratic national societies. I also thought that we, as ENS Executive Committee members, could factually help younger European neurologists in improving their scientific understanding of neurological diseases and their pathogenesis through a cultured multidisciplinary approach. Along some years indeed the ENS tried to behave as a scientific society, but the premature loss of Anita Harding, plus some inevitable pressure of pharmaceutical companies, progressively blanked this cultured-structured, yet probably candid, approach.

### 3. Important achievements during my presidency

I strongly favoured a realistic approach to European Neurology and tried, together with some respected colleagues, to officially approach the problem of the fusion between ENS and EFNS. I organized an ad hoc meeting of the Presidents of the two societies in Milano. An argument which I strongly tried to push was Neurogenetics, a key strategy for the understanding of neurodegeneration, but I am afraid that I did not have much audience in this area after all. Overall, the ENS, to me, has been a fresh, stimulating and friendly experience