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Cancer Research this month salutes two outstanding cancer institutions in Milan, Italy. Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori of Milan was founded in 1928. Its present structure includes two divisions of experimental oncology and six divisions of clinical oncology, comprising a comprehensive cancer center with 510 beds in its hospital area. The Institute has had four directors: Gaetano Fichera (1928-1935); Pietro Rondoni (1935-1956); Pietro Bucalossi (1957-1975); and Umberto Veronesi (1975-present). Among its main contributions have been work on daunomycin and Adriamycin, adjuvant chemotherapy of breast cancer, and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and melanoma.

The Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche “Mario Negri” was founded in 1960 and began its activities in 1963, under the legacy of a Milanese philanthropist who died of cancer. It is devoted to research in cancer chemotherapy, neuropsychopharmacology, and cardiovascular pharmacology, and it consists of 18 laboratory units with a total of 300 workers.

The Institute is headed by Silvio Garattini. Some of its main contributions have been on development of models to study metastases in experimental animals and characterization of immunostimulants and immunodepressants. It has issued numerous monographs such as Chemotherapy of Cancer Dissemination and Metastases (New York: Raven Press, 1973).

Pictured: above, Istituto Nazionale, and Professor Veronesi; below, Istituto Mario Negri, and Professor Garattini.

M. B. S.