

Scan

Valuable.
Edited interview
F. Fidanza.
2004.

Fidanza, Flaminio Vittorio (b. 1920)

<p>Professor Fidanza, born in Perugia, professor of Nutrition at the University of Perugia (1965-1994), graduated from the University of Naples in medicine, with post-doctoral training in Rome in nutrition and physiology. Assistant to Gino Bergami in Naples, he was assigned to work with Ancel and Margaret Keys on their first visit to explore the relationship of diet and blood lipids in early 1952, beginning a lifelong collaboration in the Seven Countries Study (SCS). After a Rockefeller Fellowship, during which he worked in Keys's Minnesota Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene, he credited Keys with "straightening out my Italian non-scientific way of thinking," became principal investigator of the Italian undertakings in the SCS and internationally active in nutrition science.</p>

<p>Fidanza's contributions included determination of body density as a measure of body composition, characterization of the Italian "Mediterranean Diet," devising quantitative dietary survey methods, and writing standard texts on human alimentation and nutrition and on nutritional status assessment. His ~~medical~~ colleagues in surveys admire his erudition, and poetic language and also find him a martinet of discipline in the field. </p>

Sources:

<p>Oral History with Henry Blackburn, 4 April 2002. </p>

Dear Ms Teicholz,

-The e-mail of Dr. Aravanis is correct, but as I told you is three years old and probably no more operating because he is not in good health conditions.

-The percentage of olive oil in Corfu is 25.6. It was a clerical error. Sorry! This value, as the others, as I told you, are in the booklet of Den Hartog et al.: Dietary studies and epidemiology of heart disease, pages 52-65 and 69-76 that I will sen you by mail. (We called it the our REED BOOK, from the cover). It will be send to you by searate mail.

-As I indicate in my e-mail the lesson from SCS was a diet low in

S. M...
C. ...

They

? Flaminio: - Firenze, ...
- Poppi ...
- del Vecchio ...
- Montegiungio ...
- ...
- ...

saturated fatty acids and with medium quantity of olive oil. That is *part of* the Mediterranean diet!

-Mrs Helen Sdrin was a very difficult person to work with. She was only a Greek dietitian with a little training in USA, but always know-it-all. In addition very often inconsistent.

-I do not know the publication by J. Yerushalmy. Do you can be so kind to send a copy of it? In any case Dr. Blackburn will cover this. From SCS books, papers of Dr. Keys and personal information I summarize the criteria for country selections.

? / In February 1952 Dr. Keys came to us in Naples (Italy) to measure serum cholesterol of firemen to be compared to that of their counterparts in Minnesota. The average serum cholesterol was very different mainly due to %~~en~~ from total fats in the diet.

Dr. Keys extended this study to other 19 samples of men from Spain, UK, Italy, South Africa, Sweden, Japan and USA. The relation between serum cholesterol value and %~~en~~ from total fat in the diet (from food balance sheet) was always positive. But this approach was heavily criticized and Dr. Keys was called the "the traveler scientist."

After 1953 Dr. Keys almost every year spent few months in Naples (Italy) as Visiting Professor at Institute of Human Physiology, Naples University, Medical School.

In March 1954 we organized in Naples at Institute of Human Physiology a meeting to discuss the coronary problem. Attended this meeting Dr. PD White (Boston, USA), Dr. JT Doyle (Albany, USA), Dr. G Biork (Malmo, Sweden), Dr. H Malmros (Lund, Sweden), Mr. E Klepetar (StPaul, USA), Mrs. MH Keys (Minneapolis, USA) and the following Italian Professors or Doctors: G Bergami (Naples), M Mattioli (Naples), A Poppi and T Posteli (Bologna), M Coppo (Modena), V Puddu (Roma)

(*Karvonen?*)
Chomcha.

At Naples meeting all agreed "that comparable prospective studies in different populations could discover common characteristics associated ~~to~~ susceptibility to coronary disease. The problem was how to organize, finance, and carry out such comparable studies in different populations.

Because CHD was a great problem in Finland Dr Karvonen asked Dr. Keys some years before to carry out a survey in Finland. In the summer and autumn of 1956 Dr. Keys and I participated to a

cross-sectional epidemiological study of men in two rural areas of East and West Finland and in Helsinki (firemen and professional men).

Because we were aware of faults with those ^{Carl M} cross-sectional studies, Dr.s Keys, Buzina and I met in Rome and decided to start with comparable ~~pro~~ prospective studies in different

populations. Support was received from Drs N Kimura, V Puddu, H Taylor. Dr. Aravanis (pupil of Dr. White) requested to add Greece.

For sample selections see the first book of Keys and SCS Group : Supplement to volume 460/1967 of Acta Medica Scandinavica. / ^{selection.}

Cirdek In summary: compulsory conditions were : stability of the populations; chunk of 500-1000 men aged 40-59 preferably from rural areas; great collaboration from administrators and participants; a very high response rate; local facilities for the study.

For Italy we established an ad hoc Committee (Puddu, Poppi and myself). We selected the following rural small towns : Crevalcore in the North, Montegiorgio in the Centre and Nicotera in the South Italy.

For Yugoslavia Dr.s Buzioa and Diordjevic selected rural areas in Dalmatia, Slavonia, 2 in Serbia and University Professors from Belgrade.

Dr Karvonen selected two rural areas in East an West Finland.

Dr. Kimura selected the rural village of Tanushimaru and the fishing village of Ushibuka in the island of Kyushu.

For Greece Dr.s Aravanis and Dontas selected rural villages in Crete and Corfu.

For USA due to difficulties to find a rural populatioa as in Europe, Dr. Taylor proposed the US railroad men in the past examined by him.

Because of this USA cohort, we included for comparison the Rome railroad men in replacemnt of Nicotera not followed longitudinally.

For Netherlands Dr. Keys contacted Dr. MJL Dols, Chairman of the Netherlands Nutrition Council who suggested Dr. C Den Hartog, Director of the Hague Netherlands Institute of Nutrition in

Wageningen. Zuthphen was selected, a commercial town among agricultural surroundings. Because the men aged 40-59 were about 2300, a random sample of 906 was chosen.

-For the Mediterranean diet I send you by mail some of our papers.