Enrico Farnea (1970-2013)

Our colleague and friend Enrico Farnea died on April 14 2013, due to a fast malignant disease against which he fought, with all his considerable mental and physical strengths, for about six months.

Enrico was born on August 29 1970 in Verona. He studied Physics at the University of Padova and graduated in 1995 with a thesis done at LNL on the development of ISIS, a light charged particle detector for the gamma-ray detector array GASP. After the thesis he continued working with the gamma-ray spectroscopy group on the EUROBALL project, and in particular to the development of the light charged particle detector ISIS, which was very much used in the Physics campaigns at LNL and at IReS (Strasbourg). Between 1998 and 2000 he was at IFIC Valencia with a “Marie Curie” fellowship. In 2001 he got his PhD, at the University of Surrey (UK), with the thesis “Spectroscopic studies of Isospin Mixing in 64Ge” based on experiments performed with EUROBALL using the instrumentation he contributed to build. This work has been an important contribution to the complex topic of isospin mixing in nuclear states.

At the end of 2001, when Enrico got his position at INFN Padova, the strength and the future perspectives of the Padova/LNL Nuclear Spectroscopy group got indeed a very significant boost.

In parallel with the experimental activity at LNL with GASP, EUROBALL and later on with CLARA, Enrico was involved since the beginning in the efforts of the AGATA collaboration to develop the gamma-ray tracking paradigm, which is based on the precise identification of the energy-release points inside large-volume high-purity segmented germanium crystals and the reconstruction of individual gamma transitions that generated them. In particular, he developed the Monte Carlo simulation codes used to define the geometrical structure and the performance both of AGATA and also of the US project GRETA. Considering the cost and complexity of a full gamma-ray tracking array the AGATA collaboration decided to proceed in phases, starting with a Demonstrator composed of 15 crystals (out of the 180 needed for the complete array) to be constructed and operated first at LNL. As Local Project Manager and as a member of the AGATA Management Board (AMB) Enrico was in charge of the installation of the Demonstrator at the target point of the PRISMA spectrometer and of the ensuing 2010-2011 experimental campaign.

Besides the efforts to develop AGATA, Enrico has been for many years the representative of the Padova group in the INFN Nuclear Physics Scientific Committee. Since about one year he was Group Leader of the INFN-experiment GAMMA, which involves about 50 physicists of from Firenze, Legnaro, Padova, Milano and Camerino.

An excellent physicist and a wonderful person with many interests in literature, music and movies, Enrico was fully committed to his research work and was always ready to help, in particular the younger colleagues. His untimely passing away is a major loss for our community, first of all from the human point of view but also for the effect on the many activities in which he was so essential.

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