

CAMPANIA – LAND OF POISON

On July the 30th, the Pascale National Cancer Institute of Naples made a shocking report: 47% more people are stricken with cancer in Naples than in the rest of the Italy.

This figure is disturbing, but it is not new. Scholars Antonio Giordano and Giulio Tarro have been calling attention to this problem for years, but their reports have often gone unheeded. Today, their studies, scientific investigations and the collection of dozens of qualified opinions are presented together in the form of a white paper entitled “Campania, terra di veleni” (“Campania, land of poison”), published exclusively by Il Denaro.

The presentation held yesterday in the Il Denaro Hall of the Mediterraneo Theater in Naples was moderated by Il Denaro’s Editor-in-Chief, Alfonso Ruffo. In attendance, among others, were the artist Gino Riviaccio, former prosecutor Giandomenico Lepore, the Scientific Director of the Pascale National Cancer Institute Gennario Ciliberto, and Senator Ignazio Marino, via video.

The text is already available in e-book format at <http://shopping.denaro.it/campania-terra-di-veleni.html> and can be reserved in hard copy by writing to denarolibri@denaro.it. A web site dedicated to the work also features related Italian press releases:

www.campaniaterradiveleni.com.

“I was only 15 years old, in 1977, when my father, Giovan Giacomo Giordano, Professor and Chief Pathologist at the Pascale Institute for the Study and Treatment of Tumors, wrote a white paper entitled ‘Health and the environment in Campania’, published by the Center for the Study of Economic and Social Politics in Southern Italy, in which he reported the presence of areas in the city of Naples at high risk for developing tumors. Ahead of his time, my father put together a team of Neapolitan scholars to draw up a “map of toxicity” in the province of Naples, showing how the Neapolitan population ran a greater risk of getting sick in the more industrialized areas of the city.”

So writes Professor Giordano’s son Antonio Giordano 35 years later, he too a pathologist, and also professor of Pathology and Histology at the University of Siena as well as Director of the Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA (USA). Together with Giulio Tarro, Emeritus Professor at the Cotugno Hospital in Naples and Chairman of the Commission on the Biotechnology of the Virosphere, WABT-UNESCO in Paris, Dr. Giordano has co-authored this new white paper that tackles topics regarding health in the Campania region, focusing on the epidemiological investigations that show how this part of the country has been damaged by the still ongoing problem of toxic dumping.