The Life and Times of Enrico Gratton

Subtitled:
Don’t Worry in Advance
I congratulate Enrico for:
1.8934 x 10^{18} nanoseconds
of existence!!!!
If we had a penny for every nanosecond
Enrico has been alive we would have more
than $3,000,000 for every person on earth

And I hope he’s around at least until
3.1558 x 10^{18} nanoseconds
While traveling once with Enrico we saw a herd of sheep in a field and I commented “Those sheep have been recently shorn”.

Enrico looked at them and said: “At least on one side”.
Enrico Gratton
Principal Investigator of the Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics.
www.lfd.uci.edu/~gratton/ - 2k - Cached - Similar pages

LFD: Enrico Gratton Biographical Sketch

Enrico Gratton was born in Italy and received his doctorate in physics from the University of Rome. He came to the University of Illinois at ...
lf.d.uiuc.edu/staff/gratton/EGbio.html - 4k - Cached - Similar pages

Enrico Gratton Enrico Gratton was born in Merate (Como) Italy in 1946. He received his doctorate degree in physics from the University of Rome in 1969. ...
www.fluorescence-foundation.org/gratton.htm - 10k - Cached - Similar pages

Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology Enrico Gratton. Professor of Physics and Biophysics, Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics. Ph.D. 1969, University of Rome, Italy ...
www.life.uiuc.edu/biophysics/ CBCBWebPages/CBCB%20Faculty/Gratton.html - 8k - Cached - Similar pages
Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology Enrico Gratton. Professor of Physics and Biophysics, Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics. Ph.D. 1969, University of Rome, Italy ...
www.life.uiuc.edu/biophysics/ CBCBWebPages/CBCB%20Faculty/Gratton.html - 8k - Cached - Similar pages

Today@UCI: Press Releases: Prominent physicist Enrico Gratton joins UCI faculty ... Enrico Gratton, a physicist who pioneered technology used to map out physiological systems, ...
today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1438 - 23k - Cached -

Enrico Gratton
www.reallyreallyoldguys//famousolditalianguys/msg01368.html - 666M - Cached - Similar pages

Today@UCI: Press Releases: Prominent physicist Enrico Gratton joins UCI faculty ... Enrico Gratton, a physicist who pioneered technology used to map out physiological systems, ...
today.uci.edu/news/release_detail.asp?key=1438 - 23k - Cached - Similar pages
www.reallyreallyoldguys.com

Choose your country
www.reallyreallyoldguys.com

Famous Old Italian Guys

Enrico Gratton

Leonardo da Vinci

Giuseppe Garibaldi

Galileo Galilei
Livio Gratton was a famous Astronomer (actually a graduate student of Enrico Fermi) who left Italy in 1949 to become the chief astronomer at the Cordoba Observatory in Argentina.

So Enrico actually lived in Argentina between the ages of 2 and 15.

Consequently, to this day Enrico can speak passable Spanish.

In fact I believe the first words he ever said to me were “Estos no son mis zapatos!”
I learned from Bill Mantulin that early in Livio Gratton’s career he discovered Jupiter. I think we would all agree that this was a significant accomplishment.

I once met Livio Gratton and was told that when Enrico was born they almost named him “Jove Gratton” in honor of that discovery.

But on reflection he said that, considering Enrico’s likely scientific career, perhaps it was better that he wasn’t named after a giant ball of gas.
Some people look at the world and say “Why”

Others look at the world and say “Why not”

Enrico looked at the world and said:

Of course!
Livio and Margherita

Giulio; Roberto; Giampaolo; Enrico; Ida; Luigi; Maria; Alessandro; Clara; Gabriele; Raffaele
Separated at Birth???
This connection perhaps explains an early impulse on Enrico’s part to try his hand in Hollywood.
In fact, it was due to Enrico’s efforts in this regard that we use the term:

“Spaghetti Western”

Rare movie poster available on eBay
This picture was taken during a screen test for another movie. Unfortunately, a less talented actor got the part.
Enrico also auditioned for a remake of the famous Rodgers and Hammerstein movie: South Pacific

Unfortunately he was not cast
In desperation, Enrico turned to dance, hoping to revive his faltering stage career.
Alas, the publics’ reaction to Enrico’s efforts was overwhelming
After a series of soul-searching talks with Gregorio Weber about career choices, Enrico turned his full attention back to science.

---

Enrico - you are an excellent scientist - but you will never be a Marcello Mastroianni, let alone Clint Eastwood or Baryshnikov.

Of course
So Enrico cleaned up his act and joined the faculty at UIUC and the rest is history
But I want to note that Enrico has not severed all connections with the jet set—as this photo taken in Portofino shows.
Realizing that physical as well as mental stamina is required to work at the highest levels, even today – at his advanced age – Enrico trains as hard as he did in his youth.

We see him here completing the Urbana Park district 20 yard dash.
Although in California he has stepped it up a notch!
But Enrico also knows the value of relaxing.
As we see at the past LFD Advisory Board Meeting

Dr. Reinhart, Chairman of the LFD Advisory Board, takes his oversight duties seriously
As many of you know, Enrico has always enjoyed cooking – especially pasta. In fact, for years he sought to combine his scientific and culinary skills and he dared to venture where few Italians have gone before.

Last year he achieved his dream as shown in this abstract presented for the 6th Weber Symposium held in 2005 in Hawaii.
Green Fluorescent Pasta with Subnanosecond Lifetime
by Enrico Gratton, LFD, UIUC, 1110 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801

Ever since the days of Galileo, Italian scientists have struggled to make Green Fluorescent Pasta (GFP) with subnanosecond lifetimes. The closest we have come to this goal was when Enrico Fermi achieved a self-sustaining chain of rigatolli on December 2, 1942 at the University of Chicago. I am proud to announce that subnanosecond GFP has finally been made in the kitchen of the Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics at UIUC. Preliminary results also suggest that FRET can occur between the GFP and a red marinara sauce. Calimari and mushrooms, however, appear to totally quench the fluorescence. I am presently exploring the possibility of FRET between blueberry sauce and the GFP. This work was made possible by generous support from Chef Boyardee and Papa Dels.
Dr. David M. Jameson
University of Hawaii
Department of Cell and Molecular Biology
Biomedical Science Building
1960 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Dave,

I am writing to acknowledge my invitation to you to visit the Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign between November 25 – 30 (with a day off for Thanksgiving!) to carry out your proposed two-photon FCS measurements on dynamin, both in vivo and interacting with GTPases. I know that this data will be of significant help to you with your NIH grant application on this system. I also look forward to the wonderful pasta dinners you always prepare when you visit!

Sincerely yours,

Enrico Gratton, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator of the Laboratory for Fluorescence Dynamics and Professor of Physics
Having said all this, I finally want to wish Enrico “Happy Birthday!!!!” and nothing but good luck as he begins his life in California.

We’ve set up a birthday cake in Hawaii large enough to handle all of the candles.