

ENI AWARD 2016

New Frontiers of Hydrocarbons - Upstream Prize

Emiliano Mutti

Winner

Deep-Water Sedimentation: Turbidites and Contourites and Their Facies and Reservoir Characteristics

Biography

Emiliano Mutti was born in 1933. He is a field geologist who obtained his Master in Geology at the University of Milano, Italy, in 1959, and his Ph.D (Libera Docenza) in Sedimentology in 1971 at the University of Torino. Between 1960-1965 he served as an assistant professor of Sedimentology at the University of Milano. During this period he did extensive field mapping in the Island of Rhodes, Greece. Between 1965-1969 he worked as a research geologist for Esso Production Research (European Laboratories) from which he resigned in 1969 to become an Associate Professor (1969-1975) and a Full Professor (1975-1982) of Sedimentology at the University of Torino. In 1982 he moved to the University of Parma to teach Sedimentary Geology. He retired in 2007.

Prof. Mutti has mainly worked on stratigraphy and sedimentology of deep-water turbidite basins in a variety of geodynamic settings worldwide. He devoted particular attention to the study of the Eocene foreland basin of the Spanish Pyrenees. Much of his work on turbidites is summarized in classical papers he wrote with Franco Ricci Lucchi and, more recently, with W.R. Normark. Since 1989, he has become increasingly interested in fluvio-deltaic sedimentation and its relations to that of turbidite systems. More recently Mutti's research has moved to mass-transport deposits and to the still largely overlooked petroleum potential of contourite sands with impressive examples from the Brazilian offshore. As a consultant, he has worked for many major oil companies on training, research and exploration projects in Europe, Brazil, Argentina, Africa and Indonesia. His papers on turbidite sedimentation are among the most widely cited in the literature.

Distinguished lecturer of AAPG on "Turbidite systems" in 1984-85 (North America).

Distinguished lecturer of AAPG on "Turbidite systems and their relations to catastrophic fluvial sedimentation" in 1996 (Latin America)

Distinguished lecturer of IAS (International Association of Sedimentologists) in 1996 on "Fluvideltaic and turbidite sedimentation" (North America, Europe, South Africa and Asia)

1993 - Honorary fellow of the Geological Society of London;

2003 - EAGE (European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers) Wegener Medal (Award for Outstanding Contribution) "for his worldwide contribution to sedimentary dynamics of turbidite sand and their reservoir characterization over the last half century. His pioneering

work has had a significant impact on petroleum geosciences. His broad international outlook and his attachment to human values and to a “natural” geology have been highly appreciated by all the communities who have worked jointly with him”.

2004 - SEPM (Society for Sedimentary Geology) Twenhofel Medal for “outstanding contributions

to Sedimentary Geology” (the highest award of the Society);

2011 – Honorary fellow of the Italian Geological Society;

2012 – EGU (European Union of Geosciences) Lamarck Medal “for his internationally acclaimed research in clastic sedimentology, and especially for his ground-breaking detailed field-based models of turbidite systems, their petroleum reservoir characterisation and their relationship to fluvio-deltaic systems”.

Member of the Geological Society of America, of the Geological Society of London, of the Geological Society of Italy and of SEPM. He has written more than 100 scientific publications, including a text book on stratigraphy (1989) coauthored by A. Bosellini and F. Ricci Lucchi and a book, published by AGIP, on “Turbidite Sandstones” (1992).

Married with Edda, he has two adult children (Maria and Luigi).