

My professional journey thanks to the PhD

Journée de la Relève
04/10/2018, Geneva

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A 'soon-to-be' physicist



I grew up in Via Panisperna, in Rome (Italy)



The famous 'Via Panisperna Boys' from 1930's : (left to right)

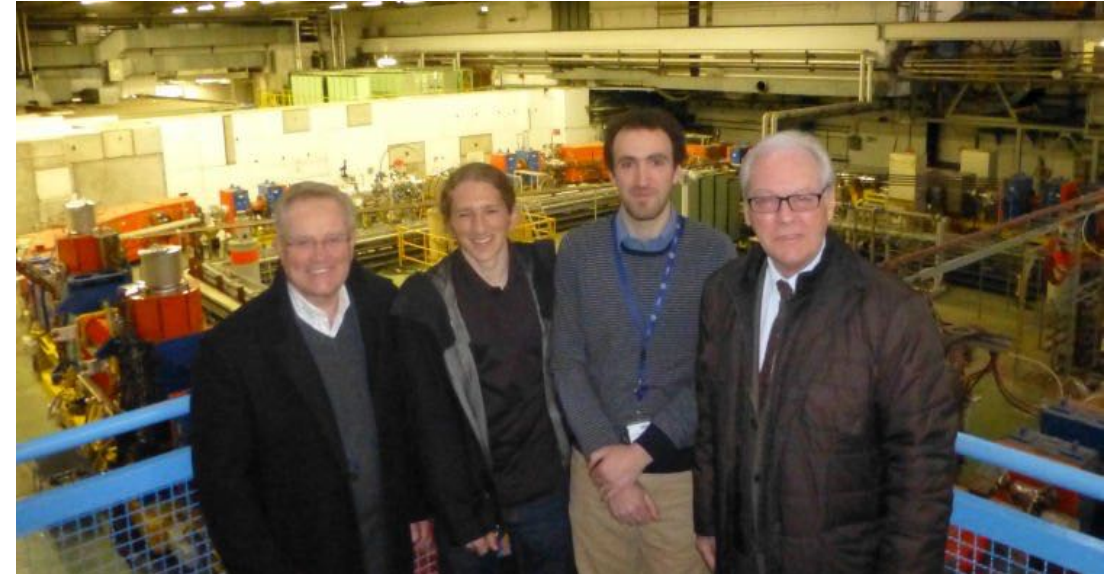
D'Agostino, Segrè, Amaldi, Rasetti, Fermi



The old library



The new Rolex Learning Center



- PhD in collaboration with EPFL and Paul Scherrer Institut on accelerator design for cancer therapy
- Small group based at CERN where I was the only expert in cyclotrons in the group
- Marie Curie ,Experienced Researcher' at CERN on accelerator design for biomedical research
- Team of 2 and interaction with many experts within large organization

First industrial experience

- 3 years at EBG MedAustron GmbH (medical device manufacturer and treatment center for cancer therapy with ion beams – 100 people)
- My profile was attractive thanks to the core technical skills acquired during PhD/'post-doc'
- New experiences:
 - Fast rhythm and high pressure
 - Human interactions and hierarchy
 - Processes (medical industry)
 - Magic of teamwork
 - Sense of mission and purpose





- Coordination of engineers-physicists and relationship management with external partners
- Interface between academia and industry



- Gradual transition into entrepreneur for medical start-up
- Good mix of ,old` and ,new` competences
- Standing on the shoulders of *giants*

Cons of a PhD

- Little exposure to teamwork
- Not always results-driven or structured work
- Focused more on scientific publications than protectable IP
- Little knowledge of industry standards and processes (good practices)

Pros of a PhD

- Technical skills
- Autonomy
- Critical sense
- Public speaking
- Scientific rigour, data-driven decision making
- Creative problem-solving

- take time to understand what:
 - day-to-day life in the company is
 - constraints they have
 - jargon/acronyms they use (!)
 - can be useful for them in your profile
- consider joining or starting your own start-up : hard life but many incentives today
- > talk to as many people as possible
- > be ready to learn new skills and adapt to a different environment

and be proud of what you accomplished in accademia