

Professor Giuseppe Gozzetti (1935–1995)

On 10 June 1995, Professor Giuseppe Gozzetti, a master in the field of surgery, passed away. His humanity still lives on in his fellows, colleagues and, most of all, patients, who are the witnesses of his *ars chirurgica* and human greatness.

Giuseppe Gozzetti was born on 1 February 1935 in Isola della Scala (VR), Italy. He graduated from the University of Bologna School of Medicine in 1960. After spending a year in Paris, Professor Gozzetti became one of the pioneers in cardiovascular surgery in Bologna. The surgical school in Bologna owes its fine reputation to his work both as a dedicated researcher and as a surgeon.

The next step in Professor Gozzetti's career came in 1972, when he was appointed director of the Department of Surgery in Chieti, where he stayed from 1972 until 1981. During that period, the Department of Surgery, once a local surgery ward, developed into one of the most important Italian surgical centers. At the same time, Professor Gozzetti's interest in hepatic surgery began to grow, and in the decade that followed he was to become not only a leader in Italy but also an international leader in the field.

In 1981 Professor Gozzetti was called by the Faculty of Bologna and appointed director of the Clinica Chirurgica there. From 1981 on, his career became an endless sequence of successes and accomplishments that made him one of the European masters of surgery. He was one of the founders of the Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery Association (WAHPBS) and later of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA). He was also one of the vice chairmen of this Association and was placed in charge of organizing the Second

World Congress of the Society, to be held in Bologna in June 1996. That congress will now be dedicated to his memory.

Professor Gozzetti's surgical activities were widespread over the fields of abdominal and thoracic surgery, yet there are two main areas in which his achievements are truly outstanding. The first is hepatobiliary surgery, as evidenced by the 600 publications and five books that he authored. There was not a single Italian or European congress on hepatic surgery in the last 10 years where Professor Gozzetti was not an invited speaker. A natural result of this activity was the establishment in Bologna of one of the most important European liver transplant centers, the financing and improvement of which Professor Gozzetti dedicated his time and energy to up until the last days of his life. It is due to his passion for his work that many patients have now stopped travelling abroad in a "journey of hope"; instead they find in Bologna an answer to their transplantation needs. About 200 liver transplantations have been performed since May 1986 under Professor Gozzetti's supervision. He personally performed the vast majority of them. In addition, he stimulated the further development of activities within the ongoing kidney transplant program in his department: some 600 kidney transplantations have been performed, with more than 80 from living related donors.

Professor Gozzetti had only recently joined the International Advisory Board of *Transplant International*; he was also a board member of the journal *Liver Transplantation and Surgery*. Moreover, he was co-editor of the surgical section of the journal *Hepatogastroenterology* as well as a member of the Editorial Board of *HPB Surgery*.

Professor Gozzetti's second field of interest for clinical and research activity was the surgical treatment

of inflammatory bowel diseases. In particular, he was involved in surgical treatment of ulcerative colitis, with the largest series of ileo-anal reservoirs in Italy. In 1989 he was the promoter and organizer, together with the Mayo Clinic and the Cleveland Clinic, of the first World Congress on ileo-anal pouches. For the last 8 consecutive years, Professor Gozzetti was invited to the American College of Surgeons, of which he was a fellow, to present films on his operating techniques.

Despite all of his accomplishments, for many years to come the most outstanding impression that Professor Gozzetti will leave us with will be that of him as a man. Disease and pain were his constant companions for the last 10 years. Yet, his patients were never denied a minute of his time or attention. On the contrary, Professor Gozzetti used to spend much time talking and explaining things to his patients. This was simply his way of being a physician. While most of his patients weep over the loss of their beloved and trusted physician, Professor Gozzetti's colleagues will mostly remember him as a master of surgery and an exceptionally brave man.

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