



## Introduction to the “GRG Profiles and Perspectives” Series

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Published online: 30 July 2014  
© Springer Science+Business Media New York (Outside the USA) 2014

It gives us great pleasure to introduce a new series for *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*: “GRG Profiles and Perspectives.” In this series, we plan to spotlight senior scientists who have made an impact on gastroenterology and hepatology not only through their clinical practice and their research publications, but also by contributing to the field in an unusual or notable fashion, in particular by the mentoring of young clinical scientists who have become academic leaders in their own right or through strong support of the training of physician-scientists through active efforts in scientific societies or in politics, as examples. It is only fitting that as the official journal of the Gastrointestinal Research Group, we acknowledge and highlight the contributions of the individuals who have and will help shape the future of our field by promoting and supporting the values of mentorship, academic excellence, scholarly achievement, and innovation.

For the first installment, we have chosen to showcase an individual with an highly unusual background. Ignazio Marino, MD, although Italian, has spent much of his career

in the USA as a transplant surgeon, developing and performing innovative procedures and training multiple young physicians in addition to contributing to the literature with the publication of multiple highly cited scientific articles. Although remarkable in its own right, Dr. Marino’s career took a sudden turn in 2005 when he was asked to consider running for election of Senator of the Italian Republic, which he won in 2006. Most recently, he was elected as Mayor of the City of Rome in 2013, assuming leadership of a city that has elected mayors for <0.1 % of its long, globally prominent, and distinguished recorded history. As a politician, Dr. Marino has fought hard to support and promote fundamental investigation in the life sciences, as detailed in his accompanying perspective.

We hope that you will enjoy reading about the career and the goals Dr. Marino would like to achieve in his current position, which include modernizing the Italian science infrastructure in order to grow and nurture its science enterprise, and to develop a generation of young scientists who can carry the effort into the future.

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