

OBITUARY

## Professor Mario Rubino (1923–2004)

It is our sad task to announce the death of Professor Mario Rubino, Chief of the Surgical Clinic of the University of Bari, Italy, on 23 January 2004 at the age of 81. Although he belonged to an earlier generation of surgeons, he acted as a turning point in the attitude to modern medicine, being ever ready to welcome new technological innovations. Professor Rubino was among the first to appreciate the importance the computer would have in the medical field and by 1984 he had set up a computerized medical records system for patients with colorectal carcinoma. He was among the pioneers in Italy of thoracic surgery, portal hypertension, kidney transplantation and colorectal surgery, and was one of the founders of the Italian Society of Coloproctology. A convinced scholar of medical statistics and of the methodology of scientific research, he had recently published the first manual of surgical research methodology to be written in Italy. Prof. Rubino was a charming man with a lively sense of humour and, besides a profound medical insight, he possessed a vast general culture (including a diploma in pianoforte). We, and all those who knew him, will remember him and his medical and scientific principles.

*V. Memeo • D.F. Altomare  
Department of Emergency and Organ Transplantation  
General Surgery and Liver Transplantation Units  
University of Bari  
Bari, Italy*

