Obituary: Giovanni Davì (1948–2017)

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With the death of Prof. Giovanni Davì on May 26, 2017 at the age of 68 years, internal medicine in Europe lost a good friend and colleague who helped to give our profession its current shape.

Prof Giovanni Davì was a renowned internist, focusing his research on the role of platelet activation, lipid peroxidation, endothelial dysfunction as well as inflammation in the pathophysiology of atherothrombotic diseases.

He was born in Palermo in 1948. He graduated cum laude in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Palermo.

In 1980, when he was a young clinician, Giovanni Davì, coming from the Internal Medicine Dept of Palermo, started working in Professor Carlo Patrono's Laboratory, at the Catholic University in Rome. This collaboration dealt with a milestone acquisition in the history of clinical pharmacology, the measurement of the basal rate of thromboxane biosynthesis, as reflected in vivo by the excretion of thromboxane metabolites, paving the way for pioneering clinical studies providing the biochemical evidence on thromboxane-dependent platelet activation in several clinical settings at cardiovascular risk, such as patients with diabetes or obesity.

During his career, he was the Director of Postgraduate School of Hematology in Chieti, the Director of the Service for the Prevention and Treatment of Haemorrhagic and Thrombotic Diseases, Regional Center for Rare Diseases of Blood and Haemopoietic Tissues, in Pescara Civil Hospital, Full Professor of Internal Medicine in Chieti, and he was the Ph.D. Program Director in Aging Sciences at the same University. In 2011, he became the Chief of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University Hospital of Chieti, Italy and finally the Director of the Postgraduate School of Internal Medicine.

His scientific contribution is prodigious. He published over 300 papers in international journals, with an H index of 52 and about 10,000 citations.

During his career, Giovanni Davì made many important contributions to the education of young internists and hematologists.

He was member of prestigious International Scientific Societies, including the Council on Thrombosis of the American Heart Association, the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, New York Academy of Sciences, the Working Groups "Thrombosis and Platelets" and "Peripheral Circulation" of the European Society of Cardiology, and different Italian Societies, first of all SIMI, and

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Competence, elegance, and intelligent irony were the main characteristics of Giovanni. He enjoyed his origin land, Sicily, and was an eclectic person; he loved art, reading, good music and food. Those who have met Giovanni Davì were always impressed by his brilliance and his sense of humour. He was a highly talented physician, innovative and dedicated, with supreme integrity and generosity in sharing his knowledge. He was a man of unique vision, enthusiasm, and persistence.

He was an enjoyable and pleasant gentleman, having friends all over the world and respected for his wisdom, culture, knowledge.

He had a great organization skill. Patient care and research were his first primary interests. Many people loved and respected him.

Until his death he remained very active in the medical society. Nobody will ever forget him, and he will be remembered as a smiling man who always pursued the best for everyone.

His energy and wise counsel will be remembered by many, especially the hundreds of younger academics and trainees he supported over his career. He will be profoundly missed by all those who had the privilege to know him and work with him.

Giovanni Davì is survived by his wife Anna, his daughters Valentina and Alessandra, his beloved sister Mariella and niece Clelia.

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