In Memoriam: Eugenio Inglese 1945–2020

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In Memoriam

Eugenio Inglese, MD (1945–2020)

The cardiology and nuclear medicine communities are saddened by the passing of Eugenio Inglese, MD, who died on 21 March 2020, victim of coronavirus pandemic.

It is hard to write an obituary, it is hard to find the right words to describe a sentiment of a loss of friend and esteemed scientist.

Prof. Inglese was born in Alessandria, in Northern Italy, and received his undergraduate medical education at the University of Pavia. He completed his nuclear medicine fellowship at the University of Milan in 1979. After that he got the postgraduate degree in cardiology. He spent the first 10 years of his professional activity at the Ospedale Niguarda in Milan where he started his work in the field of nuclear cardiology using a mobile gamma-camera in an Italian leading center for cardiovascular diseases (A. De Gasperis Centre).

In 1990 he became chief of the nuclear medicine department of the Ospedale Maggiore in Novara, that he headed for 20 years; he was promoted to associate professor of medical imaging. In 2008 something happened that modified his enthusiasm for life: Eugenio mourned the loss of his son Carlo due to a road traffic accident.

Eugenio was co-founder of the Italian Working Group of Nuclear Cardiology and a leader, a guide and an enthusiastic teacher for many young Italian physicians for decades. As associate professor of diagnostic imaging, he chaired a postgraduate Master course on telecommunication and distant learning in medicine. The Italian Association of Nuclear Medicine (AIMN) identified his laboratory as a Centre of excellence for training fellows in nuclear cardiology.

His interests covered the gamut of activities in the field, from PET/CT in oncology and radiotherapy, to image fusion, but he is best known for his work on myocardial perfusion imaging. His laboratory served as the core site in multicenter studies for the use of 201-Tl in viability evaluation.^{1,2}

In the eighties, he was involved in several multicenter trials on the use of Tc-labeled radiopharmaceuticals.^{3–6}

He combined creativity, and meticulous evaluation in the development of new applications in his field, yet he never forgot that the ultimate purpose of science was to promote the care of individual patients. Despite his knowledge and his position at the forefront of the development of nuclear medicine, he was always very kind, humble and open to discussions with colleagues at national and international level.

Beyond his remarkable scientific production, we remember his clear contributions during our scientific meetings, example of intellectual clarity and scientific rigor, aimed to contribute to the diffusion of Nuclear Cardiology in Italy.

He was a great friend for many of us and we are sure to represent the sentiments of all Italian and many international nuclear cardiology physicians.

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Prof. Inglese's death leaves a void, personally and professionally, for all who knew him, but we continue to be led forward by his ethic, scientific integrity, insight, and perseverance.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Gigliola, his son Giorgio, and to his extended family.

Disclosures

Raffaele Giubbini, Pierluigi Pieri, Gianmario Sambuceti declare that they do not have conflicts of interest concerning this paper.

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