

Planning and Designing Clinical Research

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Planning and Designing Clinical Research

Series edited by
Antonino Gullo



Springer

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© Springer-Verlag Italia 2001
Originally published by Springer-Verlag Italia, Milano in 2001
ISBN 978-88-470-0139-8 ISBN 978-88-470-2919-4 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-88-470-2919-4

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data: applied for

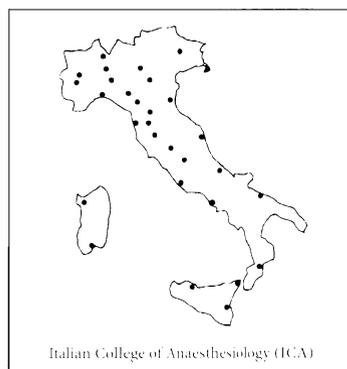
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Cover design: Simona Colombo, Milan
Typesetting: Photolife, Milan

SPIN: 10790128



Italian College of Anaesthesiology (ICA)

Forewords

I am greatly pleased and honored to introduce to the National and International Scientific Community a new publication by the Italian College of Anaesthesiologists. The first issue of this series is entitled *Teaching and training in anaesthesiology and critical care* and is devoted to a topic of fundamental importance: **planning and designing clinical research**, the contribution of two prestigious colleagues in basic disciplines, Susan M. Martins and Walter A. Zin.

The Italian College of Anaesthesiologists includes teachers of anaesthesiology and critical care and was set up in 1986 in order to gain more information about how the different Italian schools operate. Its other, deeper objective was a further strengthening of the collaboration regarding the training of future specialists and refresher courses for all those who need them and intend to maintain a close relationship with the school where they trained. Of course, the college of teachers has a very difficult task, which is harmonizing the basic aspects of teaching and also supporting its pupils in their methodological research in order to optimize the clinical approach.

Teachers, specialists, and scholars are aware that the learning process is not accomplished in just a few years, because the range of topics is wide and the technology complex. Anaesthesiology yesterday and perioperative medicine today, just like intensive care yesterday and critical care today, need the contribution of various experiences and skills, which have the main objective of training specialists in order to provide patients in any acute or chronic condition with the highest possible standards of professional care. This is one of the main goals and the *raison d'être* of the Italian College of Anaesthesiologists.

Twelve years have passed since we discussed, together with many famous colleagues, the institutional goals the College had to represent. This idea has matured, developed in other countries by various professional colleges in other disciplines to create a philosophy within research, teaching, and clinical medicine. It is hoped that this initiative may also provide food for thought for us teachers and an impetus to continue our journey in such a fascinating discipline as anaesthesiology. I thank you all for your support for this project – in certain respects an ambitious one – which better aligns the Italian College of Anaesthesiologists with its institutional tasks.

Florence, October 2000

Gian Paolo Novelli
Founding President of the
Italian College of Anaesthesiologists

It is with great pleasure that I present the first volume of the new series *Teaching and training in anaesthesiology and critical care*, published by Springer-Verlag Italia on behalf of the Italian College of Anaesthesiologists.

This initiative, to which my colleague Professor Antonino Gullo has significantly contributed, falls under the College's objective of optimizing teaching methods and training techniques in anesthesiology disciplines.

This first volume, **Planning and designing clinical research**, was written by Susan M. Martins and Walter A. Zin, two highly qualified scholars in the field of basic disciplines, and is extremely important for those who want to develop their studies and research on the basis of clinical activity.

My wish is that this series becomes a means of communication between teachers, young and more experienced specialists as well as scholars of the discipline, facilitating fruitful debate on the various aspects of education and training in anaesthesiology disciplines.

I would also like to thank Springer-Verlag for their help in making this publication possible.

Padua, October 2000

Giampiero Giron
President of the
Italian College of Anaesthesiologists

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