

Paulo Pelosi MD, FERS - A Professor of excellence in Anesthesiology and Critical Medicine

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Editorial

As physicians we are destined to fight against death. Although we have won thousands of combats, we will always lose the final battle because death is a natural moment in the existence of every living being. This Lady is inevitable; she is a mortal painful guest. When a medical personality dies, the academy loses too much; not only the physical presence of the person, but his guide, his empathy, his personal and academic goals, his achievements gradually fade until they become part of a story of successes and failures. The legacy that the greats of medicine leave us as a vital part of the advances of our profession; the conqueror of a thousand battles has lost his own fight against death.

Paulo Pelosi was born in Milan in 1963 and passed away in Genoa on May 30, 2023 when he was only 60 years old. Professor Pelosi dedicated his academic life to Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. He studied medicine and surgery at the Università degli Studi di Milano, completed his residency in Anesthesiology and Resuscitation, then worked at the San Gerardo Hospital in Monza. In 1993 he returned as an anesthesia researcher to the University of Milan where he remained until 1999. Afterwards he was professor of Anesthesia and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Insubria, Varese, till 2010. From 2010 until his death he was Chief Professor of Anesthesia and Intensive Care and Director of the School of Anesthesiology Specialists at the University of Genoa, as well as Head of the Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit and Director of the Liguria Regional Center for Poison Control, at the IRCCS San Martino-IST Hospital in Genoa.

He was president of the European Society of Anesthesiology, ESA (2010–2011), Secretary and then Head of the Respiratory Intensive Care Assembly 2 at the European Respiratory Society, board member of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine. Vice president of the Italian Society of Anesthesia, Analgesia and Intensive Care (SIAARTI), of which he would be president for the years 2025-2027.

Among many other honors, Professor Pelosi received the T. Cecil Gray Medal of the British Journal of Anesthesia/Liverpool Society of Anesthetists in 2015, was a speaker at the 2019 Sir Robert Macintosh Lecture at the European Society of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care. He received the International Lifetime Achievement Award in Intensive Medicine from the Chilean Society of Critical and Emergency Medicine, was a corresponding member of the National Academy of Medicine of Brazil, and Fellowship of the European Respiratory Society.

Paulo was a distinguished scientist, a born clinical investigator, mentor to countless residents and students, and a consummate leader. He contributed through his academic work on respiratory physiology during anesthesia, acute respiratory failure, ventilation management; topics that were his scientific and personal passion. He published over 400 original articles, 163 invited articles, and 105

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book chapters. When Italy was hit by the first wave of COVID-19, he spent a lot of time caring for patients at his hospital in Genoa and was a vital factor in sharing his experience with this pandemic. Paolo made recommendations by participating in international forums and advising state governments on how to deal with this threat, thus contributing to saving lives around the world.

Paulo will be remembered not only for his clinical research, but also for his tremendous dedication to educating and mentoring hundreds of fellows, students, residents, and colleagues whom he trained as Anesthesiologists and Intensivists in his native Italy. Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine have lost a great leader. Our Journal of Anesthesia and Critical Care: Open Access grieves the death of Professor Pelosi.

Rest in Peace Paolo Pelosi knowing that your earthly life was a mission accomplished.

Acknowledgments

None.

Conflicts of Interest

None.