

## In memoriam of Professor Gualtiero Palareti\* (1943-2025)

Giovanni de Gaetano

Editor-in-Chief

Caro Gualtiero,

I don't know if you'll ever be able to read this short letter. I really don't know what happens after death. I only hold on to the Christian hope that with death "*vita mutatur non tollitur*", life is changed, not ended, that life isn't taken away but simply transformed, just like a caterpillar becoming a butterfly while still being the same living creature.

When I first heard about your passing, I thought about asking a couple of our distinguished colleagues in the field of hemostasis and thrombosis to write an *obituary* in your honor. But then I realized that it had to be me who wrote to you, because of our long friendship, our mutual respect and affection, and our shared passion for research, especially clinical and epidemiological research.

I still remember how impressed I was when I first read your paper on D-dimer in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. I felt proud that a group of brilliant Italian researchers, under your leadership, were teaching the entire scientific world how to properly manage anticoagulant therapy. With that and the more than 400 papers you published according to PubMed, you improved—and saved—the lives of thousands upon thousands of people all around the world.

Just these days, a well-known figure from Italian television passed away, and rightly so, the media have been filling the air



Prof. Gualtiero Palareti.

Correspondence: Giovanni de Gaetano, Department of Epidemiology and Prevention, IRCCS Neuromed, Pozzilli (IS), Italy.  
E-mail: giovanni.degaetano@moli-sani.org

\*Prof. Gualtiero Palareti, Section Editor of "Clinical diagnosis of thrombotic disease" passed away in Bologna on August 8, 2025.

Received: 22 August 2025.

Accepted: 22 August 2025.

Publisher's note: all claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article or claim that may be made by its manufacturer is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

©Copyright: the Author(s), 2025

Licensee PAGEPress, Italy

*Bleeding, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology* 2025; 4:371

doi:10.4081/btvb.2025.371

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

with tributes, grateful memories, endless commentary—for someone who had entered people's Sunday afternoons and Sanremo nights in so many Italian households. Around you, there was no media clamour, even though the Italian Society for the Study of Hemostasis and Thrombosis (SISST), the Federation of Centers for Anticoagulant Therapy Surveillance (FCSA), the friends at the Arianna Foundation you created, and many others wrote about you right away. I myself, as Editor-in-Chief of *BTVB*, received so many emails and WhatsApp messages full of affection, admiration, nostalgia for your life and shock and sadness at your loss.

It's hard not to reflect bitterly on a society like ours, where scientific culture is poorly appreciated and always seen as secondary to what we call the "humanities". And yet it's scientists and physicians like you who truly take care of humanity—in both the dignity of the person and the fragility of the patient. How many homes around the world did you enter in a friendly way through the results of your work, bringing hope, relief, and longer lives...

And now, who am I going to turn to for advice about my atrial fibrillation—whether to cut my dose of edoxaban in half or to keep going with the full dose after more than a year?

This little letter of mine is just one more piece in the puzzle of memories—a quiet tribute to your extraordinary ability to make science and culture, and generate communication, joy and friendship.

In these past years, I shared with you the birth and growth of our new scientific journal, *BTVB*, where you were the Senior Section Editor and contributed steadily and generously—never raising your voice or forcing a word, right up until the very end.

Thank you, dear Gualtiero, also on behalf of Chiara Cerletti,

the Section Editors and Deputies, the staff of our publisher Page Press, and all our readers and authors. If *BTVB* continues to grow in the years ahead, it will be because of your presence that still lingers, your subtle sense of irony, and that warm Romagnolo accent of yours that will keep guiding and supporting us.

I hug you with the same affection as always, even if, like Odysseus in the underworld with his Mother, my arms for now only fall back against my chest.

Giovanni