

In memoriam of Professor Gian Franco Gensini (1945-2026)

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“The best way to predict the future is to create it”

With the passing of Professor Gian Franco Gensini on April 29, at the age of 81, the community of Internal Medicine has lost not only a distinguished academic leader but also a generous mentor, a visionary clinician, and a dear friend.

Born in Florence on May 11, 1945, he graduated in Medicine and Surgery at the University of Florence in 1969. As a young physician, under the guidance of Professor Gian Gastone Neri Serneri, he approached research with curiosity and rigor, also engaging in early experimental work on hemostasis, including animal models, which helped shape his lifelong interest in thrombosis and vascular biology. From those first steps, his path was marked by an unwavering dedication to understanding disease and improving patient care.

Throughout a long and distinguished career, he served the Italian academic and scientific community with tireless commitment. Appointed Full Professor of Internal Medicine in 1990, he directed several Internal Medicine and Cardiology Units at Careggi University Hospital in Florence, eventually becoming Head of the Department of Heart, Thorax and Vessels. At the University of Florence, he played a pivotal role in education, first as President of the Degree Course in Medicine and Surgery and later as Dean for many years. He also led the Schools of Specialization in Internal Medicine and Cardiology, shaping generations of physicians.

Internationally recognized, Professor Gensini authored over



650 publications, focusing on cardiovascular diseases, particularly atherothrombosis, prevention, and clinical appropriateness. He was among the early advocates of a medicine grounded in scientific evidence and centered on the patient, with a forward-looking vision embracing personalized medicine, the One Health approach, and a comprehensive model of care that included lifestyle, nutrition, and physical activity.

He also made a major contribution to the development and coordination of national clinical guidelines, including the SPREAD guidelines, promoting standardized, evidence-based approaches and helping translate scientific knowledge into everyday clinical practice.

At the core of his work was a deep and constant attention to the real health needs of people. He had the rare ability to look beyond controversies, disciplinary boundaries, and academic divisions, always focusing on the ultimate goal: improving patient outcomes. His approach was pragmatic, inclusive, and driven by a sense of responsibility that placed the patient at the center of every decision.

His commitment extended to scientific societies, where he served as Secretary of the Italian Society of Internal Medicine (SIMI), President of the Italian Society of Haemostasis and Thrombosis (SISST), and founder and President of the Italian Society of Simulation in Medicine and the Italian Society of Telemedicine. He also founded the Thrombosis Study Group of the Italian Society of Cardiology. In 2006, he became Editor-in-Chief of *Internal and Emergency Medicine*, guiding the journal with remarkable energy and enthusiasm to achieve an early and significant impact.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Gian Franco Gensini will be remembered for his humanity, his ability to inspire, and his deep sense of responsibility toward patients and colleagues alike.

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Even after his official retirement in 2015, he remained intellectually active, contributing to innovative projects in precision medicine and integrated approaches to health. His energy seemed inexhaustible – many of his collaborators still recall, with a smile, his characteristic encouragement: “*What are you doing – are you sleeping?*” A simple remark that perfectly captured his restless curiosity, his discipline, and his relentless drive to move forward.

We would like to recall one of the last things he said to us. Whilst, though already in pain and frail, he was explaining to us his plans for ‘One Health’ and the medicine of the future – the concept of ‘In Universum salus’ – he quoted the following, though he could not remember who had said it: “The best way to predict the future is to create it”. So, later on, we found the author (a quote

attributed to Abraham Lincoln or Peter Drucker) and sent it to him with a phone message. His reply was: “Put it into practice!” This was Prof. Gian Franco Gensini, and it was an enormous privilege to be close to him, and it is impossible to match his curiosity and his vision of the future.

He is survived by his wife, Professor Rosanna Abbate – his lifelong companion in both life and science – his children Francesca and Giacomo, and his beloved grandchildren Alessio, Silvia, Lara, and Gemma.

His legacy will continue to live on in the many physicians he trained, in the ideas he fostered, and in the spirit of inquiry and dedication he instilled in all who had the privilege of working with him.