

In Memoriam



Giancarlo Vecchio (12th June 1938-1st October 2019)

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of **Professor Giancarlo Vecchio**, Past President (1999-2001) of the European Thyroid Association.

Giancarlo Vecchio was born in Salerno 81 years ago and studied Medicine at the University of Naples. He started his scientific career under the supervision of Prof. Gaetano (“Nino”) Salvatore, with whom he shared through many long years continuous collaboration and profound friendship.

Giancarlo Vecchio worked in Columbia University (New York), at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda) as a prestigious Fogarty Scholar-in-Residence, and at the St Louis University, and also spent a research period in Sweden at the Karolinska Institute.

In 1975, he became Professor of Cancer Virology and then of General Pathology at the University of Naples Medical School, where he taught for over 35 years with great dedication and enthusiasm, fired by his highly progressive and enterprising spirit.

He became a member of the ETA in 1967, holding the post of member of the Executive Committee from 1982 to 1992. He was President of the ETA from 1999 until 2001, and in 1999 he was awarded the ETA “Henning” prize. In 2006, he organized a very successful ETA Annual Meeting in Naples as President of the LOC.

Giancarlo Vecchio was a dedicated oncologist and a pioneer in the study of retroviral oncogenes and of the mechanisms of the loss of thyroid differentiated phenotype during neoplastic transformation. These studies led to the identification of RET gene rearrangements (“RET/PTC oncogenes”) in papillary thyroid carcinoma, one of the first examples of oncogenic fusions in solid malignancies.

Highly respected for his scientific contributions, Giancarlo Vecchio was also greatly appreciated for his extremely kind and gentle personality and his constant attention to the needs of both students and collaborators. A real gentleman with a great passion for humanity, his scientific research, and his country.

He is survived by his wife, Titta, their two sons, Enzo and Riccardo, and grandchildren.

On behalf of the members of the Executive Committee and all the members of the European Thyroid Association, we express our sincerest condolences to his family and to his friends and colleagues.

Leonidas Duntas
Secretary of the ETA

Domenico Salvatore
University of Naples, Italy