

## OBITUARY

## In memoriam of Gino Strada

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The Italian surgeon Gino Strada died the 13 august 2021 in France at the age of 73 years. In 1994, he founded the humanitarian organisation “Emergency” to provide free, quality healthcare for the victims of war. In a suburb of Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, he implemented a Surgical and Pediatric Centre in Goderich with the aim to improve the life conditions of pediatric population.

In 2008, the Pediatric Centre was attended by twelve residents of the Post-graduate School of Pediatric at Parma University, under the guide of professor Raffaele Viridis, with the purpose to carry out a

project of great humanitarian value consisting in the preparation of an anhydrous dietary cream rich in calories, easy to prepare, for malnourished children. The formulation of this food product, conceived entirely in Parma under the input of the war surgeon Sandro Contini (see his personal memory of Gino Strada published in the present Acta Biomedica issue) was realized entirely in Parma in collaboration with the colleagues of the Department of Food and Drugs, and the generous support of Cariparma Foundation. The food is now universally known as “Parma pap”.

The collaboration between Emergency and Parma University School of Pediatrics was formalized the 8th of May 2008 during a public meeting crowded beyond belief with students and researchers. The picture we publish here captures the moment in which Gino Strada and I, Director of the School of Pediatrics at the time, signed the collaboration agreement between Emergency and the Parma School of Pediatrics in Goderich.

“Patients always come first” is the motto that he and us, as Pediatricians, will never forget. Thanks dr Strada, “maestro of humanity”, for your passion, human solidarity and vision of future.