

## I N M E M O R I A M

# Professor Domenico Cucinotta, MD

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*Editor in Chief, Acta Biomedica*



We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Professor Domenico Cucinotta on February 6, 2026. Acta Biomedica mourns the loss of a distinguished physician, researcher, and senior member of the journal's Editorial Board, to which he contributed numerous internationally acclaimed scientific articles. His account of the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic, published in Acta Biomedica in 2020 (1), received over 83,906 views and 11,759 citations

worldwide. His last article, written a few weeks before his passing, appears in this issue.

For nearly two decades, Professor Cucinotta shaped the development of geriatric medicine at the S. Orsola-Malpighi University Hospital in Bologna, Italy. As Director of the Geriatrics Unit from 1989 to 2007 and, subsequently, Director of the Integrated Department of Internal Medicine, Ageing, and Nephrological Diseases from 1999 to 2007, he played a pivotal role in strengthening geriatrics within both academic and hospital settings. Earlier, as Chief Physician in Forlì and Ferrara, Italy, he contributed significantly to consolidating geriatric services across the region, consistently advocating a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to ageing.

His professional commitment extended well beyond clinical care. Deeply engaged in the ethical and organisational dimensions of healthcare, he served on the Ethics Committee at Sant'Orsola-Malpighi University Hospital for many years, acting as Vice President from 2001 to 2005. He was also actively involved in the Hospital Pharmaceuticals Committee and several other committees of the Emilia-Romagna Regional Health Agency, where he provided expertise to inform healthcare policy and clinical governance. From 1993 to 1999, as Director of the "Giovanni



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XXIII Care and Retirement Home” in Bologna, he further demonstrated his dedication to improving the care of older adults, which must be rigorous, ethical, and deeply human.

He has participated in numerous Medical Research Council programs to study syndromes affecting older adults. He has served on Expert Committees in Italy and abroad to develop new methods for the clinical evaluation of older adults. Over the years, Professor Cucinotta has published several scientific papers in national and international peer-reviewed journals, chapters in medical textbooks, and books. He was a Professor in the Master’s in Geriatric Medicine at the

University of San Marino and Ferrara. Through these roles, he fostered dialogue, collaboration, and professional growth in geriatrics.

His memory will live in the institutions he helped grow, in the scientific and professional communities, and in all those for whom he served as a guide in the art of medicine.

## References

1. Cucinotta D, Vanelli M. WHO Declares COVID-19 a Pandemic. *Acta Biomed.* 2020;91(1):157-160. doi:10.23750/abm.v91i1.9397.

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