

O B I T U A R Y

In memory of Professor Andrea Casati

Guido Fanelli

Chair, Postgraduate School of Anesthesiology, University of Parma, Parma, Italy



Andrea Casati, associate professor of anesthesiology and intensive care at the University of Parma, passed away on Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

Andrea was practicing his favorite sport, climbing. The accident happened at an anonymous training facility in Parma - a cruel twist of fate for someone who had conquered many mountains in his life.

Andrea graduated in Medicine and completed his residency in Milan, his birthplace. He later worked at Milan's San Raffaele hospital until 2004, when he moved to Parma to become an associate professor in 2005.

His death represents a tragic loss for the anesthesiology community worldwide, as testified by the hundreds of grieving messages we received in the few days after his departure. The following are but a few of the manifestations we received:

On behalf of the anesthesia faculty and family at the Johns Hopkins University, please accept our heartfelt sympathies and sincere condolences.

Christopher L. Wu
Johns Hopkins University Baltimore - Maryland

I met when I was in Duke although I had been reading all his publications regularly. He is a great loss to all of us.

S. Ganapathy FRCA, FRCPC Professor,
University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

I am shocked by this tragic news. Andrea was such a brilliant scientist, such a good and amicable colleague...

Zbigniew J. Koscielniak-Nielsen MD, PhD,
FRCA, Rigshospital, Copenhagen

I would like to inform the ASRA membership of Andrea's passing in an obituary published in the Newsletter UCSD San Diego - California

Andrea is a major loss for our specialty and your country... in my opinion, the BEST young investigator in Italy and one of the top young guys in the world...

Paul White
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center, Dallas, Texas

We have lost a brilliant scientist and a good friend ... Andrea - we will never forget you!

Peter Marhofer, M.D. Professor,
Medical University Vienna

Andrea was not only a great regional anesthesiologist, but he was a great human being. For me, he was family. I have had the privilege to be very close to him since he spent 3 months in Houston many years ago. He helped so many people not only in Italy but from all over the world.

J. Chelly, Professor,
University of Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh

I would like to close this brief, formal communication with Dr. Admir Hadzic's proposition, in the hopes that our University will pick it up. I am ready.

"Let us all think of appropriate ways of assuring that Andrea be remembered both by generations that have known him and those who would get to know of his name through his future contributions. Perhaps creating Andrea Casati regional Anesthesia Research Fond? Or renaming the International Orthopedic Friends Society meeting to Andrea Casati Memorial Symposium on Regional Anesthesia? Whatever. We should just all make sure that he and his magnanimous personality continue to live among us."

A. Hadzic
St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center,
New York, USA