



GIACOMO GRASSELLI

Honorary Membership is awarded to those who have made exceptional contributions to the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine or to the field of intensive care medicine. This year, it gives the Society great joy to welcome Professor Giacomo Grasselli as an Honorary Member. We do so with heartfelt thanks for his dedication and his outstanding contributions to the ESICM.

Giacomo is a caring clinician, distinguished researcher, inspiring teacher and a leader who brings people together. He is one of the most devoted members our Society has. His path to intensive care medicine was far from conventional. After graduating in Medicine and Surgery in Milan in 1995 and serving as a medical officer in the Italian Air Force, he first trained and certified as a medical oncologist, working at the Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan. He then turned to anaesthesia and intensive care, obtaining his board certification from the University of Milano-Bicocca in 2006 while working at San Gerardo Hospital in Monza. A two-year research fellowship at St Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto, recognised with a Critical Care Fellowship Award, shaped his lifelong scientific focus: respiratory physiology, mechanical ventilation and extracorporeal respiratory support.

Today, Giacomo is Full Professor of Anaesthesiology at the University of Milan, Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine, and Director of the Adult Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine Unit at the Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico in Milan. He is National Coordinator of the Italian ECMO Network, and has served the Italian Society of Anaesthesia, Analgesia, Resuscitation and Intensive Care (SIAARTI) as Chair of its Intensive Care Section and now as its President-Elect.

Giacomo's commitment to the ESICM has been long and wide-ranging. From 2016 to 2019, he was Italy's National Representative, strengthening the ties between the ESICM and the Italian intensive care community. He chaired the ESICM Guidelines on Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, a major undertaking that brought together experts from across the world to set out the evidence on the definition, phenotyping and respiratory support of ARDS, and which has become a reference for clinicians. Most recently, as General Secretary, he demonstrated calm authority, fairness and an unflinching sense of responsibility. The ESICM is deeply grateful to Giacomo for the time, energy and judgement he has given it over so many years.

A recognised leader in his field, Giacomo is the author of more than 400 publications, a regular invited speaker at national and international meetings, and a collaborator in major international research, including precision medicine platform trials in ARDS and acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure. He is an advocate for high-quality research and evidence-based practice and a committed teacher and mentor who has trained many young intensivists and researchers in Milan and beyond.

Yet those who know Giacomo will tell you that his greatest qualities are not found on his CV. He is loyal, humble and genuinely kind. He always has the best interests of his patients, friends and colleagues at heart. This is what his friends at the ESICM say about him:

'Giacomo leads with kindness and quiet generosity, always ready to encourage and help others without drawing attention to himself. Even while making major contributions to research and to the care of critically ill patients, he brings calm to difficult moments, never speaks unkindly of anyone, and makes you feel cared for as a person as much as valued as a colleague. We are lucky to have him as a friend.'

'Giacomo is a remarkable combination of expertise, intelligence, generosity, humility, calm and a constant smile — qualities we rarely find together in one person.'

'Giacomo never seeks the spotlight, only the good of the Society.'

'Giacomo is that rare combination of first-class scientist, trusted clinician and generous colleague. He leads not by raising his voice, but by example.'

'Giacomo has a rare gift for bringing calm to any room he enters. However great the pressure, he listens first, thinks clearly and responds with quiet good sense.'

Giacomo's dedication to intensive care medicine, his leadership during the COVID-19 crisis, his commitment to research and education, and his many years of devoted service to the ESICM make him a truly deserving Honorary Member.

Congratulations, Giacomo

MARLIES OSTERMANN
ESICM President-Elect

JOHN LAFFEY
Chair of the ESICM
Research Committee