

In Memoriam



Professor Gianni Mastella graduated as a medical doctor in 1955 and as a paediatrician in 1958. In 1967 he was appointed director of the newly established Verona CF Center. He was a visionary and a key figure in the Italian CF community, pioneering the set-up of a multi-disciplinary team and mentoring a whole generation of health professionals to build a greater CF clinical network.

He strongly believed in early diagnosis and initiated a laboratory that anticipated newborn screening, first by measuring meconium proteins and later being one of the first CF centers to adopt immunoreactive trypsinogen in dried blood spots. In the years before 1989, the laboratory was already offering prenatal diagnosis by microvillar enzyme testing, and shortly after the CFTR gene discovery a pilot project of cascade carrier screening was started.

Prof. Mastella received the Rossi Medal in 2003, now known as the ECFS award, given annually to honor a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the treatment or care of patients with CF.

After his retirement, he was the catalyst for the establishment of the Italian CF Research Foundation, of which he was Scientific Director until his demise. The Foundation has been a major channel for CF research in Italy and also a true supporter of the ECFS Basic Science conference, generously funding the participation of young researchers to the conference for many years.

The CF community will sorely miss this pioneer in care and research.

Meetings

20th Scientific Meeting hosted by the scientific board of the Mukoviszidose e.V.
9-10 September 2021

CF Registry: Ready for science!? - Value of registry data to improve CF care

[More information](#)

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Email:
david.debisschop@ecfs.eu



Current References in Cystic Fibrosis

Many thanks to Dr. Henry Ryley for compiling the current references in Cystic Fibrosis that you can download through this [link](#).

European Cystic Fibrosis Society
Kastanieparken 7
7470 Karup
Denmark

info@ecfs.eu