Science fears certainties and teaches us to doubt. It is modest, it doesn’t preach. It acknowledges that its task is to always push the frontiers of what we know a little farther. By its very nature it has to “look beyond”, to go against the tide with respect to the society that expresses it. In the intent not to affirm itself, but to try to understand and learn from mistakes.

Umberto Veronesi

Two years have passed since the death of Professor Umberto Veronesi, a leading figure on the international scientific scene.

Umberto Veronesi was an extraordinary doctor: he fought hard against cancer to save the lives of his patients. He was an enlightened researcher: overcoming great difficulties, he developed an innovative surgical technique called quadrantectomy, which revolutionised surgery to treat breast cancer. He was a fine thinker, a cultivated and open-minded man: he always made his voice heard in the world of science, culture and civil society.

It was only natural for his legacy as a passionate researcher, scientist and contemporary intellectual to be cherished and fostered by the Foundation that bears his name and that he created in 2003, with the aim of promoting “the progress of science,” a synthesis that accompanies the logo of the Umberto Veronesi Foundation.

Promoting scientific progress means, first of all, financing scientific research that can change the fate of millions of patients, and spread a culture of science and prevention, starting with younger generations.

Two years after his death, we wish to briefly retrace the key moments of his life as a scientist, remembering, in particular, the last years spent mostly at his Foundation.

A life in scrubs

I never thought of doing another job. I have always loved women and with love I have always carried on my passion for medicine. The honest truth is this: you have to love people to be a doctor.

Umberto Veronesi

From the beginning of his medical career, Umberto Veronesi made innovative and courageous choices, engaging in a particularly complex field at the time, that of oncology. After graduating in medicine and early work experience in Great Britain and France, he began his career as a breast surgeon at the Istituto Nazionale Tumor.

Obituary

On January 12th 2019 Arabella Festa, the executive editor of this Journal, passed away in Rome. Arabella has always strongly believed in The Italian Journal of Gender-Specific Medicine project and she engaged herself in it from the very beginning with great passion and professionalism. She represented for the Journal much more than an executive editor, devoting herself to spread matters relevant to gender medicine with enthusiasm and generosity far beyond the duty her role requested.

During the difficult last moments, those who were close to her could witness how often she dedicated her thoughts to the Journal and, in fact, she worked at this very issue up to the final days of her life.

With her departure, gender medicine loses not only a pillar and a supporter but also a real friend: for all of us working in this field her example will be an incentive to commit ourselves with even greater determination.

Thank you, Arabella!

The Board of The Italian Journal of Gender-Specific Medicine