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In Memoriam

Professor Francesco Tomasello



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Francesco Tomasello, an internationally renowned neurosurgeon, distinguished academic, and outstanding leader of the global neurosurgical community.

Professor Tomasello was Full Professor of Neurosurgery and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Messina, where he also served as Rector from 2004 to 2013. Throughout his remarkable career, he made invaluable contributions to neurosurgical education, research, and international cooperation.

He served as President of the Italian Society of Neurosurgery, Vice-President of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS), and Second Vice-President of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS). In 2015 he organized the THE WFNS Intering meeting in Rome, one of the most successful congress with more than 2000 participants from over the world.

He was subsequently elected Honorary President of the WFNS and served as President of the WFNS Committee of Honorary Presidents.

His extraordinary achievements were recognized with the WFNS Medal of Honor in 2015 and the EANS Lifetime Achievement

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Award in 2017, honoring his exceptional contributions to European and international neurosurgery.

Author of more than 250 scientific publications and organized an uncountable numbers of international courses and meetings. Professor Tomasello devoted his life to advancing neurosurgical knowledge and training generations of neurosurgeons.

Beyond his remarkable professional accomplishments, he will be remembered for his leadership, wisdom, generosity, and unwavering dedication to our profession.

The international neurosurgical community has lost an exceptional surgeon, an inspiring teacher, and a respected leader. His legacy will endure through the countless colleagues and students whose lives and careers he influenced.

More the Italian Neurosurgical Society and the world community of Neurosurgeons have the duty to remember his contribution as an important part of our history.

As he often said (he also organized a specific meeting) our future is built on the shoulder of giants who lived before us, Franco was without a doubt a giant.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

May he rest in peace.

Marco Fontanella
WFNS Treasurer

Franco Servadei
WFNS Honorary President

WFNS Administrative Council 2025–2027