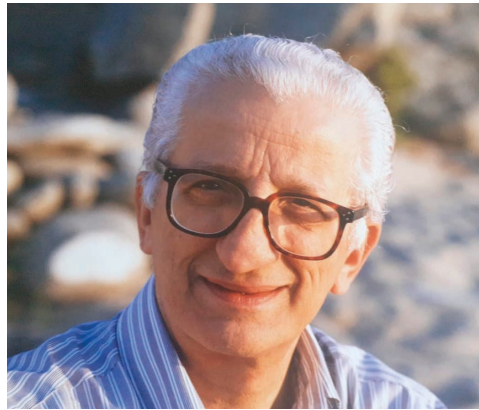


## Prof. Innocenzo Caruso

On July 29, 2022, Prof. Innocenzo Caruso, one of the first and best-known Italian rheumatologists, died at the age of 91 years. He graduated in medicine in Milan, and soon became an assistant at the Clinica Medica, later following Professor Ballabio in the new rheumatology Institute of the G. Pini Hospital in Milan. This was one of the very first Italian rheumatology departments when the specialty didn't yet officially exist. In 1973, he moved to the L. Sacco Hospital in Milan as director of the new rheumatology service, which he developed to become one of the most important Italian centers. His notoriety came following the studies on the gastrolesivity of NSAIDs, produced in collaboration with the gastroenterology unit directed by Prof. Bianchi Porro. In 1980, he published in the British Medical Journal a study listing, for the first time, the percentage of endoscopically-documented gastrolesivity associated with the most common NSAIDs. In the following 20 years, almost all new NSAIDs were tested in phase III trials by the Rheumatology and Gastroenterology Units of the Sacco Hospital, to evaluate their efficacy and gastrolesivity. In addition to clinical practice, the great passion of Prof. Caruso was clinical research, which led him



to introduce a new treatment for rheumatoid arthritis, based on intra-articular injections of rifamycin, of which he documented the anti-inflammatory and immunomodulating activities. This was a discussed and contrasted approach, determining different opinions in the Italian rheumatological environment between the 80s and 90s. After retirement, his research activity continued with the aim of identifying the pathogenetic mechanisms related to rheumatoid arthritis.

Prof. Caruso has been a great clinician and a passionate researcher, who continued to study despite the advancing age, until the last months of his life.

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Corresponding authors:  
Franco Montrone  
E-mail: francomontrone@tiscali.it  
Piercarlo Sarzi Puttini  
E-mail: sarzi@tiscali.it