Prof. Elio Cacciola, MD

R.	Rosario	Giustolisi
----	---------	------------

Catania

Prof. Elio Cacciola was born on September 7, 1926 in Messina (Italy) where he graduated in Medicine in 1950 magna cum laude. After the degree, he moved to Catania to the academic school directed by Prof. Saverio Signorelli, a pupil of the outstanding hematologist Giovanni Di Guglielmo. In Catania Prof. Elio Cacciola started his academic and scientific career with a particular interest in the field of hemostasis. Soon after he qualified for university teaching in Clinical Microscopy and Chemistry (1958), Medical Special Pathology and Clinical Methodology (1962), Hematology (1966) and Internal Medicine (1969). In 1976 he was appointed as Chairman of Hematology at the University of Catania, being among the first professors in Italy who had a chair in this speciality. This period was very fruitful: He began to get in touch with foreign institutions in Europe and in the USA where many of his coworkers went to spend time for study stages. His research interest broadened toward hemato-oncology and thalassemic syndromes, mainly thalassemia intermedia disease. He was a great statesman, an enthusiastic and careful researcher as well as a good clinician with a great sense of humanity. He published over 400 scientific articles in several fields of hematology. He was an active member of many scientific societies in Italy (Italian Society of Hematology, Italian Society of Experimental Hematology, Italian Society of Internal Medicine, Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry) and abroad (ASH, ISEH, ISH, ISTH, NY Academic of Sciences). Death hit him while working on the editing of this issue which has been completed by his daughters Emma and Rossella, both hemato-logists. He who is writing these words was close to Prof. Elio Cacciola for 30 years, working with him in clinical and research activities and is grateful for all he received from him.

Prof. Rosario Giustolisi

Chairman, Institute of Hematology, University of Catania