

7 March 2019

It is with great sadness that we must advise the haematology community in Australia and New Zealand of the tragic death of Professor Francesco Lo Coco on 3 March 2019 at the age of 63.

Internationally renowned for his numerous achievements in acute leukaemia, including as recipient of the José Carreras Award, Prof Lo Coco was especially recognised for his inspirational clinical and laboratory research in acute promyelocytic leukaemia.

Prof Lo Coco led the GIMEMA group's APL clinical trial program which pioneered the AIDA-based protocols, and subsequently demonstrated the superiority of a chemotherapy-free ATRA and arsenic protocol for patients with standard-risk APL.

Together with Miguel Sanz, he was the driving force behind the highly successful quadrennial International APL Symposia and the recently published update of the European LeukemiaNet guidelines on the diagnosis and management of APL. Prof Lo Coco's work benefitted haematologists and patients enormously, and he leaves behind a great legacy in what was once an almost uniformly fatal disease.

Francesco was a personal friend to many Australian and New Zealand haematologists. He will be remembered for his charm, generosity, brilliance and compassion, and he will be greatly missed.



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