

ESPR Gold Medal Award 2016

Professor Paolo Tomà

Professor Paolo Tomà qualified in medicine from the University of Genoa in 1976. He trained in both radiology and paediatrics in Genoa. Between 1980 and 1994 he worked as a radiologist in the department of Imaging, G. Gaslini Institute, first as a registrar – later in a more senior position. From 1992 to 1994 he was Director of the Ultrasound division. Between 1995 and 2009 he was Director of Radiology, and between 2005 and 2009 he also held the position of Director of Department of Imaging at the G. Gaslini Institute in Genoa.



Prof. Tomà was appointed Professor of Paediatric Radiology in “Radiology and Paediatric Postgraduate Schools” at Genoa University in 1990, and for the last 20 years he has mentored, inspired, and led a strong committed group of paediatric radiologists at the Gaslini Institute. Since 2010, he has held a similar position at the Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome.

Prof. Toma has published widely on several topics, and has made major contributions within radiation protection, early screening for hip dysplasia, and within chest imaging. He has published over 200 papers in peer reviewed journals, book chapters and books and has given a substantial number of invited lectures across the world. He was President of the Italian Society of Paediatric Radiology from 1996 to 2000. He has been a member of the Editorial board in Pediatric Radiology from 2011. Internationally, he served as Vice-President of the European Society of Paediatric Radiology (ESPR) from 1999 to 2002, as President from 2002 to 2003, as senior councillor from 2006 to 11 and as one of three Trustees for the past few years, and now one of “three wise men” supporting the ESPR Board.

Indeed, Prof Toma is sage, with the gentle ability to differentiate between important and unimportant matters. Just as Dwight D. Eisenhower’s principle that guided him through his hugely successful career as General and President: “What is important is seldom urgent and what is urgent is seldom important.” Furthermore, he has served as a member of the ESR Subspecialties Committee from 2008 to 2011, mentored numerous young radiologists and contributed to the annual ESPR meetings over nearly four decades. His position as a leader within paediatric radiology has resulted in the training of numerous talented young Italian paediatric radiologists.

Written by Karen Rosendahl