



Dr. Leonardo la Pietra (1962-2011)

In the early hours of December 21st 2011, Dr. Leonardo la Pietra died aged 49, despite treatments and his enthusiastic attachment to life.

He was the Chief Medical Officer of the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, Italy. He was also the Chairman of AIDOS-IHIMA (Italian Health Information Management Association) and a core Founding member of several other associations such AIRISS (Italian Association of Risks in Healthcare) and SIMM (Italian Association of Medical Managers).

Moreover, Dr. Leonardo La Pietra was devoted to IFHIMA (International Federation of Health Information Management Associations) for many years. In the year 2010 he was president of the 16th IFHIMA congress that took place in Milan, Italy (November 15-19, 2010). He also was a committed member of the IFHIMA European Team (IFHIMA Europe) and he was dedicated to publishing a unique textbook about Health Information Management in Europe.

A Public Health Physician with a Master in Business Administration from INSEAD, Fontainebleau, France, Dr. Leonardo la Pietra left a memorable contribution to the scientific community and healthcare systems at Regional, National and International levels.

His farsighted and innovative mind was focused on quality improvement, performance evaluation, clinical indicators, patient safety and risk management, medical records and information management, hospital planning and design, and international health policies. He also lectured and consulted on medical and hospital management subjects in different academic and executive programs.

These are few, but significant, memories of the professional pathway of a deeply caring and compassionate colleague who was always lead by an indefatigable scientific curiosity. We will never forget his extraordinary skills and his unshakeable will.

Leonardo was unique in his ability to set new objectives, especially during changes and crisis, when he used to repeat "Do something, anyway! 'Better' is the enemy of 'good'".

We share a recent picture of him, taken in November 2011 during his presentation at the Quality Day of the European Institute of Oncology, where, once again, he played a leading role despite his physical condition.

Dr. Leonardo la Pietra is survived by his wife, Claudia, and their children, Francesco and Renato.

AIDOS-IHIMA Segretariat