



## **Umberto Veronesi**

Umberto Veronesi is a surgeon who has devoted the greater part of his professional life to exploring the paths of research with the aim of improving the treatment and the quality of life for cancer patients.

It was he who, on the basis of controlled clinical trials, first contributed at the National Cancer Institute in Milan to the development of the conservative treatment of breast cancer. He first demonstrated that in the case of small cancer of the breast it is safe to perform a wide resection followed by radiotherapy and, thereby, preserve the breast, thus obviating the mutilating procedure of mastectomy. More recently he has developed new researches with sentinel node biopsy procedure to avoid axillary dissection when the lymphnodes are not involved.

In the last twenty years he has devoted his interests to the prevention of breast cancer conducting two major randomized studies aiming at the reduction of the risk of breast cancer in normal women with retinoids and tamoxifen.

Very recently he has reconsidered the procedures of postoperative radiotherapy after breast conserving surgery, introducing the technique of intraoperative radiotherapy.

By founding the International Melanoma Group he attracted the attention of pathologists and clinician to the need for international co-operation in melanoma research and he devised and conducted trials which showed that prophylactic dissection of regional nodes in stage I disease could safely be avoided. Furthermore, he advocated a conservative approach to melanoma which has been adopted by the World Health Organisation Melanoma Group of which he was chief investigator for 20 years.

Veronesi has also dedicated his energies to initiating and promoting educational enterprises for the training of oncologists. In 1982, he founded the European School of Oncology, which has since become a point of reference throughout Europe and, in particular, an advisory body for the European Community. The European Society of Surgical Oncology, also founded by Umberto Veronesi, has, likewise, undertaken an educational line which follows well in the wake of the guidelines traced by the School.

He has been President of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) till 1982, of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer from 1985 to 1988, and of the Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS) from 1991 to 1993. He was founder and first President of the European Cancer Societies of Mastology.

He was awarded “Honoris Causa” in Medicine from the Argentinean (Buenos Aires, Cordoba), Brazilian (Rio Grande do Sul), Greek (Athens), Belgian (Antwerp), Kracow (Poland) Universities. In May 2003 he was awarded “Honoris Causa” in Medical Biotechnologies from the Italian (Milan) University, and in March in 2005 in Physic from the Italian (Milan) University. In December 2006 he was awarded “Honoris Causa” in Scienze Agrarie from University of Naples and in October 2007 he was awarded “Honoris Causa” in Medicine from University of Lleida.

In March 2003 he was awarded with “2003 King Faisal International Prize award” from Saudi Arabia.

In 1994 he has been appointed President of the “Committee of Cancer Experts” of the Commission of European Communities.

Veronesi is the author of more than 720 scientific publications and 12 Oncological Treatises.

In 2003 he created the Fondazione that bears his name and whose aim is to promote scientific progress.

Scientific Director of the European Institute of Oncology - Milan, Italy from May 1994 to April 2000.

He was entrusted the task of Minister of Health in the Italian Government from April 2000 to June 2001.

From July 1, 2001 he has resumed the position of Scientific Director of the European Institute of Oncology. From April 29, 2008 Senator of the 16<sup>th</sup> Italian Parliament.