ESCMID is saddened by the news that Prof. Claudio Viscoli, one of the world’s most recognized Italian Infectious Diseases physician and scientists, passed away on Sunday May 3.

He was the Director of the Infectious Diseases Department of the San Martino Hospital in Genoa, as well as Professor of Infectious Diseases and the Chief of the Post-Graduate School of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the University of Genoa, Italy.

He was an expert on Infectious Diseases in children and adults, particularly in immunocompromised hosts. His special interests areas were cancer, neutropenic and transplant patients, invasive fungal infections, opportunistic infections in HIV and HIV vertical transmission.

Among his numerous scientific activities, he was President of the International Immunocompromised Host Society (ICHS) from 2010-2012, Chair and co-founder of the ESCMID Study Group for Infections in the Immunocompromised Host (ESGICH), a member of the Steering Committee for the Infectious Diseases Group of the European Organization for Research and Treatment on Cancer (EORTC ) from 2003-2008, Chairman of the International Antimicrobial Therapy Cooperative Group (IATCG) of the EORTC from 2000-2003, a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Anti-Infective of the Committee for Human Medicinal Products (CHMP) of the European Medicine Agency (EMA). He was also a Coordinator of the Kento Mwana Project for the prevention of HIV mother-to-child transmission in the Republic of Congo, Africa.

Presently, he was the President of Società Italiana per la Terapia Antinfettiva (SITA - Italian Society for Antimicrobial Therapy), designated member for Italy in the Advisory Board of the European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC), member of the Steering Committee of European Conference on Infections in Leukemia (ECIL) and a consultant (expert) to the Scientific Advisory Board for Anti-Infectives of the Committee for Human Medicinal Products (CHMP) of the EMA.

He was responsible of the scientific organization of several national and international meetings, was a member of several advisory boards for the pharmaceutical industry, an invited speaker and lecturer in major Infectious Disease meetings dealing with immunocompromised hosts and fungal infections all over the world (for example, ICAAC, IDSA, ECCMID, ICHS, TIMM, ISH, EBMT), and an invited speaker and lecturer on fungal infections and infections in cancer patients in local meetings in many places, including the UK, China, India, Israel, Turkey, South Africa and also South America.

He authored more than 400 original articles in peer-review journals, as well as many books and book chapters.

In 2018, at the 28th ECCMID in Madrid, he received the ESCMID Excellence Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the field of infection.

The scientific community has lost one of the most outstanding representatives of the Italian Infectious Diseases community. We will all remember Claudio Viscoli as a colleague, a friend and a mentor to many, with strong opinions, great scientific integrity, intellectual curiosity and a great sense of responsibility.

We send our deepest condolences and best wishes to his family and close colleagues in Italy and worldwide.

ESCMID and ESGICH Executive Committee