Professor Umberto Veronesi

Professor Umberto Veronesi is internationally recognised as one of the fathers of academic cancer research and indeed of academic surgery worldwide.

He has led a devolution in the development of the conservative treatment of breast cancer. Thanks to his pivotal research over three decades, some hundreds of thousand of women with breast cancer annually receive curative surgery that preserves their breast. He has subsequently made major contributions to developments to breast cancer prevention, and to improving procedures for radiotherapy after breast cancer surgery.

Professor Veronesi has also led 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.

In addition, he has made major contributions to the education and training of oncologists, founding the highly influential European School of Oncology and the European Society of Surgical Oncology. He has been President of the International Union Against Cancer; of the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer, and of the Federation of European Cancer Societies.

Umberto Veronesi graduated in medicine at Milan University in 1951 and qualified as Professor of Pathological Anatomy in 1958 and Professor of Surgery in 1961. He worked as a pathologist and then as a surgeon and as Scientific Director at the National Cancer Institute in Milan from 1951 to 1994, when he became Scientific Director of the European Institute of Oncology. He served as Ministro of Health in the Italian Government from 2000 to 2001, and since 2008 has been a Senator of the Italian Republic. He is the author of more than 810 scientific publications and 12 oncological treatises.

Professor Veronesi has been awarded 14 honorary degrees from universities throughout the world and is the recipient of many honours and prizes, including the Gold Medal of the Italian Health Ministry; the National Award of the American Cancer Society; the Gold Medal of the European Society of Surgical Oncology; the Strang Award for his contributions to the field of cancer prevention; the Man for Peace Award from the Together for Peace Foundation; the Leonardo Award, Rome; the 2003 King Faisal International Prize Award, Saudi Arabia; the ASCO Distinguished Service Award for Scientific Achievement, Chicago; the Jacqueline Seroussi 2005 Awards for cancer research, Tel Aviv, and the Pathfinder Award in Breast Surgery of the American Society OF Breast Disease. He has served on many National and International commissions, and committees, and since 2007 he has been founder and president of the Europe Against Cancer program.

Professor Veronesi has set gold standards across the spectrum of research, leadership and mentoring in oncology. He continues to inspire and lead the International clinical breast cancer community and to serve as a role model for current and future generations of breast cancer clinicians and researchers. He has been instrumental in supporting the development of a strategic bilateral partnership between king’s Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre and the European Institute of Oncology with the Institute of Molecular Oncology Foundation, Milan, one of the premier clinical cancer research and institutions in Europe. Among his peers globally, his contribution is unparalleled.