Professor Giuseppe Benagiano

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Graduated *cum laude* in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Rome. He did his post-graduate work at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and at the Rockefeller Institute in New York. He then returned to Rome where he obtained a Ph.D. in Human Reproduction. After serving for six years as Assistant and then Associate Professor in the Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Rome (renamed University “la Sapienza”), in 1973 he joined the Expanded Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction of the World Health Organization. In 1980, he was appointed Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University La Sapienza, and therefore returned to Rome, where, a year later, he was elected Director of the First Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, a position he held until 1993, when he was offered the post of Director of the WHO Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction, an inter-agency United Nations programme sponsored by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Bank. Today this programme is the backbone of the WHO’s “Department of Sexual & Reproductive Health and Research

In 1997 he returned to Rome to become Director General of the Italian National Institute of Health (*Istituto Superiore di Sanità*), a position he held until 2001.The same year he was elected Secretary general of FIGO, the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics, a position he held for the maximum allowed period of 6 years. In 2002 he was elected Dean of the I Post-Graduate School in Gynaecology and Obstetrics of the University “la Sapienza” in Rome. In 2003 he was named Associate professor (*Professeur Associé*) in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology of the University of Geneva;

He retired in 2009, remaining active both in research, teaching and consulting. Following his retirement, between 2019 and 2022 he published some 190 articles ranging from papers in peer-review journals, to articles in national journals, editorials, letters, books and chapters of books.

His scientific interests have been in reproductive medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, and public health. In the sixties, he was part of the team who studied and defined the human foeto-placental unit and identified a number of new pathways of hormonal steroids during pregnancy, early infancy and adulthood. His long-standing research interest has been in hormonal contraception. While serving with the WHO, he coordinated the development of several long-acting implantable and injectable hormonal contraceptives, and carried out a number of multicentre international clinical trials of contraceptives. Subsequently, his research activities expanded to investigations of proliferative gynaecological disorders such as adenomyosis, endometriosis and leiomyomata. He pioneered the use of GnRH analogues for these conditions and recently exposed new theories on the origin of adenomyosis and endometriosis. During his years as Director at WHO his field of interest expanded to public health with specific emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Health.

In recognition of his scientific achievements, he has been appointed:

* *Visiting Professor* at the Ohio State University;
* *Visiting Professor* at the Peking Union Medical College University;
* *Honorary Professor*at the Health Science Center of Peking University;
* *Founding & Life Member* of the National Academy of Medicine of Italy.
* *Fellow ad eundem* of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist*s.*
* *Honorary Fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.*
* *Honorary Fellow, the Indian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.*
* *Honorary member* of an additional 10 societies.
* *Honorary Senator* of the Academic Senate of the University of Szeged (H);
* *Founding Member* of the Italian Academy of Medicine;
* *Academician* of the Medical Academy of Rome.
* *Honorary President of the Italian Society for Contraception.*
* *Vice-President* & *Honorary President* of the Egon & Ann Diczfalusy Foundation, Szeged (H).
* *Fellow* of the International Academy of Human Reproduction*.*
* *Doctor Honoris Causa* in Medicine and Surgery. Western University Vasile Goldiş, Arad (RO).
* *President of the Geneva Foundation for medical Education and research*