Professor Giampiero Pasero, one of the founders of Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology, peacefully passed away at the age of 95 on Friday, June 9.

After graduating in medicine, he began working in the Department of Internal Medicine directed by Prof. Gabriele Monasterio, at that time one of the most prestigious institutes of this branch in Italy. In this field he acquired an impressive theoretical expertise, sound scientific methodology and clinical training that enabled him later to deal with the complex problems of modern medicine in a rational manner.

He was one of the first in Italy to combine physical semeiotics with the appropriate use of modern diagnostic and laboratory instruments. In fact, in the mid-1960s, he wrote “Functional Semeiology”, which had been used to train all Italian medical students for decades. In the same period he also began to study uric acid metabolism and seronegative arthritis, and once he became a full professor in 1971, he opened a Rheumatology Unit in his institute, which later became one of the first post-graduate schools of Rheumatology. The Pisa School expanded significantly over the decades to become a national and international leader of this branch.

The combination of his vast medical and pharmacological knowledge, his critical and collaborative spirit, and infectious enthusiasm inspired his many students to tackle systemic autoimmune connectivitis, seronegative spondyloarthritids, fibromyalgia, and osteoporosis with innovative and original studies.

Because he believed that national journals were inadequate and uncompetitive in supporting a young and rapidly developing branch, in 1983 he founded Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology, which since then has been one of the defining voices of international rheumatology.

Prof. Pasero is definitely considered to be one of the founding fathers of Italian rheumatology for his outstanding endeavours, and for his role in promoting the growth of the Italian Society for Rheumatology, in which he served as president from 1989 to 1992.

When he retired from teaching, he put his immense humanistic culture to use by devoting himself to the study of the history of medicine and rheumatology in particular, to demonstrate how scientific progress is closely linked to the contributions of our predecessors.

May this journey be an easy one, prof. Pasero.

Stefano Bombardieri
and the editorial staff of Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology