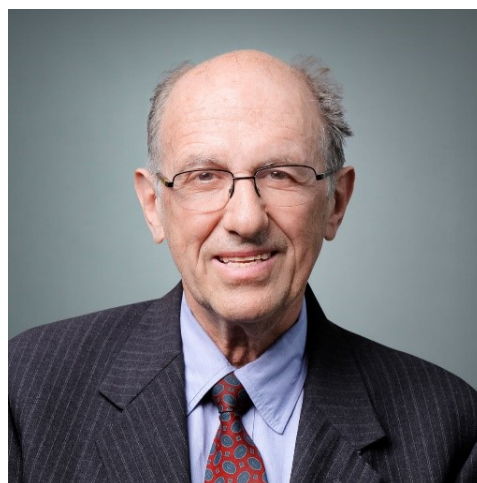


A Tribute to Franco M. Muggia, MD Professor, Medical Oncology NYU Langone Health/NYU Grossman School of Medicine

Written by Bhavana Pothuri, MD

It is with great sadness that I share news of the passing of Dr. Franco M. Muggia. He was a humble, gentle man, and always made time for anyone who asked for his wisdom and expertise. We lost an amazing mentor, and his legacy will live on in the many trainees and colleagues he mentored throughout his prolific career. There are no words to describe the impact of his immense contributions to oncology and the effect he has had on the lives of so many trainees, colleagues and patients.



A giant in his field, Dr. Muggia was instrumental in bringing platinum, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (PLD) and other important treatments into the Gynecologic Oncology treatment arena. As a medical oncologist, he saw the need to bring these important therapies to women with gynecologic malignancies, saving multiple lives and changing the way we still approach cancer care treatments. His prestigious career included being a Principal Investigator of multiple NIH/NCI sponsored grants, Associate Director of the CTEP (Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program of the NIH) from 1975-1979, and an academic medical career which spans nearly 5 decades. He was Director of Oncology at New York University and at University of Southern California, as well as Chairman and Medical Director of the Chemotherapy Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and management of cancer and the support of innovative treatment research, since 2005. He served as the Medical Oncology committee chair and co-chair of the Gynecologic Oncology Group (Now, The GOG Foundation, Inc.) from 1992-2015.

Dr. Muggia was my dear friend and mentor and introduced me and countless other physicians and trainees to the important world of clinical trials and clinical trial management. He was my mentor for the NIH CRADL award when I was a junior attending; he has shared his strength and passion for clinical trials ever since. Dr. Muggia's cancer treatment philosophy and approach helped us understand the significant impact of clinical research and the benefits that clinical trials bring to gynecologic cancer patients. In 2019, he received the Society of Gynecologic Oncology's Harry J. Long Multidisciplinary Award for his contribution to collaborative mentorship and teaching in gynecologic oncology. He received the Lifetime Achievement award from the

New York Cancer Consortium in 2012, and in 2010, he received an award of merit from the National Institutes of Health for his role as editor-in-chief of PDQ® Adult Treatment Editorial Board, in which a group of experts edit cancer treatment summaries every month based on the latest cancer treatment research findings. He also served on the American Society of Clinical Oncology's Cancer Education Committee and was an editorial board member of the Journal of Clinical Oncology, as well as the first editor of its Spanish edition. You can read more about Dr. Muggia's achievements and life-long passion to help patients with cancer, [here](#).

Dr. Muggia was a true renaissance man that lived an incredible life on 3 continents. If you mention Dr. Muggia's name to anyone, they will almost always have a story about his kindness, and his contributions in the field of gynecologic oncology and medicine. Franco spent the last morning of his life doing what he has done for over 50 years, treating patients with cancer. He was a truly committed clinician and cared deeply about his patients in addition to his extensive research career. Dr. Muggia has over 450 publications and over 30 of those have been in the last 5 years which shows how prolific and how infectious and inspiring his academic curiosity continued to be even as he approached the end of his career.

His death was sudden, unexpected, and a shock to all who knew, loved, and respected him. While we take some solace that Franco had a life so fully lived—one that profoundly and beneficially impacted so many—he will be sorely missed. I am so appreciative to him for helping ignite my own passion for clinical trials and for guiding so many physicians during his long, prosperous career and beyond grateful for the many lives he saved with his thoughtful approach to medicine.

Franco was also an adoring husband to his wife Anna, a devoted father to his four daughters, Diana, Vickie, Paola, and Julia, and a doting grandfather to his 10 grandchildren, who, until last year, he took hiking in Italy. He is also survived by his older brother, Albert, a retired gastroenterologist.

He lived a beautiful life and passed on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Dr. Muggia's funeral will be held at noon on September 10, 2021 at Congregation Shearith Israel, 2 West 70th Street, in New York, NY. Shiva will be Sunday-Tuesday, (9/12/21 to 9/14/21) 1-5P at 920 Soundview Drive, Mamaroneck, NY.