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Dr. Stefano Gasparini was born in September 1952 in Ancona, on the Adriatic Coast in the middle of Italy. He plays several musical instruments (keyboards, mouth harp, flute) and at the age of 22 he had to make a difficult decision between continuing to study medicine or continuing to play in a rock and blues music band. In fact, it was very difficult for him to integrate the preparation of the exams of Human Physiology with the nights spent awake to play in the pubs. He therefore decided to stop being a musician and in 1978 he graduated in Medicine from Ancona, Italy University.

By chance, in 1979 he started to attend the new Respiratory Diseases Unit of the Hospital of Ancona. He quickly became fascinated with Respiratory Medicine and decided to continue in this field for his professional life. He Specialized in Pulmonary Diseases (1982) and in Respiratory Physiopathology (1985) at the University of Naples. His first interests were in Pulmonary Physiopathology, so he worked on the pulmonary mechanics and published papers on flow-volumes curves, mechanisms of airways obstruction in COPD and on the effects of oxygen at different concentration in patients with hypercapnia (Interindividual variability of the response to oxygen administration in hypercapnic patients", S. Gasparini et al. *Europ. J. Respir. Dis.* 1986; 69: 427-434).

In the early 1980s he met the bronchoscope and he thought that to move a bronchoscope is like playing a musical instrument. He found interventional pulmonology to be more attractive than mathematics and physics concepts needed to dig deeper into respiratory physiopathology and so, he became interested in thoracic endoscopy techniques.

At first he focused his interest on diagnostic techniques such as transbronchial needle aspiration for the diagnosis of peripheral pulmonary lesions ("Integration of Transbronchial and Percutaneous Approach in the Diagnosis of Peripheral Pulmonary Nodules or Masses. Experience with 1,027 Consecutive Cases". S. Gasparini et al. *Chest* 1995; 108: 131-137). Prof. Ko-Pen Wang became his mentor during one of the first hands-on Courses on TBNA organised in Baltimore. Since then, TBNA has been his main topic and he has been invited to lecture on TBNA in more than 100 Meeting and Courses in Italy and everywhere in the world.

In 1994, he organized the first European Course on Bronchoscopic and Percutaneous Approach to Peripheral Pulmonary Lesions and Mediastinal Masses and then organized more than 20 national and international Hands-on Courses on TBNA. In 1994 he began an activity of therapeutical bronchoscopy using rigid bronchoscopy, laser, electrocautery and stents as well as thoracoscopy.

In 2003 he organized in Ancona the International Meeting "Endoscopy of the upper and lower airways". He was Vice Head of the Pulmonary Division of Ancona Hospital from 1989 to 2001 and from 2001, Director of the Pulmonary Diseases Unit of the Azienda "Ospedali Riuniti" Ancona. Despite these administrative duties, he continues to spend more than 50% of his time in the field of interventional pulmonology, and has trained colleagues coming from the United States, Argentina, Canada, Philippines, India, Nepal, Portugal, France, and Egypt, who have attended his Service and had training under his supervision.

Dr. Gasparini is a member of several international Scientific Societies (ERS, ATS, ACCP, AAB, WAB, EAB), and from 1999 to 2002 he was chairman of the Study Group Thoracic Endoscopy of the Italian Association of Pulmonologists and then member of the executive Committee of the same Society. In 2004 he was elected a member of the Board of Regents of the World Association for Bronchology and has joined the Editorial Board of the *Journal for Bronchology*. He is author of more than 200 scientific papers published in national and international Journals. He still loves to play music but unfortunately, lack of time forces him to play his harmonica (blues harp) in the car, while driving.