Obituary – Professor Antonio Salafia (1941–2014)

Professor Antonio Salafia was born on March 10th, 1941 in Palazzolo Acreide, Sicily, Italy. He left us suddenly on April 26, 2014 at the age of 73 in Mumbai, India.

He graduated in medicine from St. Johns’ Medical College in Bangalore and worked in the fields of leprology, reconstructive surgery, and dermatology in India, based at the Vimala Dermatological Centre in Mumbai.

He was always extremely eager of learning throughout the entirety of his training and professional career, constantly acquiring and developing new medical knowledge and skills. He reached an excellent level of practical skills in all the above mentioned disciplines which, through sharing, enabled him to contribute not only locally but on a more global scale. All developments were in devotion to the patient, particularly those under-privileged.

Among his most renowned achievements are the practices that he left behind, in particular the use of external fixators to operate the neuropathic hand, the surgical procedure on nerve abscesses, and his vitiligo treatments regimens.

He was as intuitive, quick, and efficient in life as he was at work, with an open, frank and strong personality. He never hesitated in criticising positions that were not patient-oriented and impractical. He openly reported what he saw with his own eyes and stood his ground when testifying the presence of leprosy where leprosy had already been officially “eliminated.”

He never lost contact with the Sicilian motherland where he was able to influence many youngsters with his missionary vision of life, altruism, and honesty. Antonio is survived by his wife Elizabeth and two sons.

The LML staff