

LAUDATIO (LC)

Yvonne's merits are numerous, but one of them justifies particularly the honorary title we are about to award her this evening. Throughout her life, in the various roles she has held, Yvonne has made an extraordinary contribution in showing the value and importance of the work of nurses (and of women more generally) in the care system and more in general for public health.

Yvonne is a Registered Nurse by education, with a specialization in Oncology Nursing. In 2004 she obtained a master's degree in Advanced Clinical Practice at the European Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey (UK). She worked initially in the Netherlands, as a clinical research nurse in oncology, and then moved to Switzerland where she worked many years as Nursing Director at the Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland (IOSI).

From 2003 to 2020 Yvonne has been Chief Nursing Officer and member of the General Directorate of the Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale. In this role, she gave significant momentum to the establishment of Nursing Research in Southern Switzerland and empowered many women working in the nursing professionals. We have known each other personally for at least 11 years, since I joined the EOC Board of Directors. I had several opportunities to appreciate her leadership, tenacity, and unwavering belief in the role of interprofessional collaboration. Only if doctors and nurses know how to work together, eyes to eyes, aware of each other's skills and roles, only if the spirit of care is kept alive and burns, can we expect a sustainable improvement in the quality of care of our health care system. In 2015, I asked her to take on the role of project manager of the future MSc in nursing at SUPSI, a master's program that she led between 2017 and 2019. Without her generosity, enthusiasm, expertise, and charismatic leadership we would likely not have been able to achieve a very significant milestone for the nursing profession in Southern Switzerland.

Yvonne's contribution to health care has trespassed the borders of Italian-speaking Switzerland. She has had an intense teaching activity in various training programs for health professionals and drafted numerous publications in the field of oncology and ethics. However, her main contribution to the profession has materialized as a committee member or president of various professional societies at the Swiss and European levels, including the Association Swiss Nurse Leaders, the European oncology Nursing Society, the National Association APN-CH whose aim is the development and regulation of the APN-role in Switzerland.

For all these merits, dear Yvonne, SSPH+ is very pleased to award you tonight the title of SSPH+ honorary fellow.