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**PROFESSOR TOMMASO
CLAUDIO MINEO
(1945-2018)**



To the Editor:

On December 2, 2018, Professor Tommaso Claudio Mineo passed away after a short illness.

Born in Sicily at the end of the Second World War, Professor Mineo graduated from the “La Sapienza” University of Rome. There, he grew up as a thoracic surgeon under the guidance of his mentor, Professor Costante Ricci.

He founded and led the Thoracic Surgery Group of Tor Vergata University, training a large group of surgeons and leaving an impressive body of scientific activity that included trachea, esophagus, thymus, and emphysema surgery. More recently, he was a pioneer of thoracic surgery in nonintubated patients. Under his guidance, as director of the Department of Surgery, he began in 2000 the adventure of the new Polyclinic of Tor Vergata University, where he worked with incessant passion and great charisma until his retirement 3 years ago.

Professor Mineo was the prototype of the maestro, favoring the career of several Italian thoracic surgeons and assisting them with his constant and precious advice. He was also a cultured and eclectic man, as well as Roman Catholic Christian devoted to the cult of the Virgin Mary, to whom he dedicated numerous books.

This was Professor Mineo, until the last moment; even on his deathbed, he was speaking with his pupils about science, academy, and religion. His last words were, “I am in the hands of God and Holy Mary, and I have no fear because I know that beautiful things are waiting for me. In this earthly world I have done what I could, but what really remains at the very end of the life is my family.”

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jtcvs.2018.12.068>

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