

Padova, May 11st 2021

Società Italiana di Chirurgia Oncologica
Commissione Elettorale

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"Struggling and suffering are the essence of a life worth living. If you're not pushing yourself beyond the comfort zone, if you're not demanding more from yourself - expanding and learning as you go - you're choosing a numb existence. You're denying yourself an extraordinary trip." Dean Karnazes

What many once called a farfetched dream, I saw an achievable goal in my journey to become a surgical oncologist. I have always believed that my perseverance would ultimately take me to my destination, dictated by my will, relentless handwork and unflinching faith in my abilities. This is what I keep in my mind every time I start a new marathon, and this is what brings me to the finish line, mile after mile. With this motivation, I started my journey towards becoming a surgeon.

I come from a family where the importance of education and hard work was ingrained in me at a very young age. I have been blessed with people who have been nothing but supportive of me in all my endeavors and taught me that anything is possible as long as I stay engaged in my dreams and aspirations.

My desire to pursue medicine as a career was realized at a very young age. I eventually recognized that surgery was the best avenue for me to help provide a solution to human suffering. Surgical oncology, in the end, was my dream coming true.

First studying and then teaching at The University of Padova, one of the most prestigious and ancient institutions in Europe, is an honor. At The University of Padova, I enjoyed learning surgical anatomy in the most ancient anatomical theater, the place where Morgagni and Vesalio first described the human body. Through a multitude of positive interactions, my earlier notions to pursue surgical oncology as a career were cemented into a firm desire.

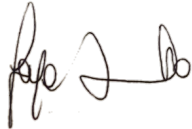
I have been part of the international network in surgical oncology since the early beginning of my career. During medical school I completed a career-changing clinical clerkship in surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In my pursuit of my dream to become surgeon scientist, I had the opportunity to spend 18 months of dedicated research work under the supervision of Professor Timothy M. Pawlik at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Immersed in the Hopkins academic environment, I remain captivated by the limitless opportunities to engage in meaningful academic pursuits in the field of surgery. After graduating from residency, I had the honor to train as international fellow in surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

I returned to Italy as Professor of Surgery at the University of Padova in 2018. I work as surgical oncologist in one of the first school of surgical oncology in the country, the school of Professor Lise, pupil of Pier Giuseppe Cevese.

I have been part of the Executive Board of SICO from 2019 to 2021, under the direction of Dr. Gronchi. I have enjoyed being part of this community of scientists and skilled surgical oncologists. I have mostly devoted my work at the educational activity of the society and in particular at the SICO Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program, which I think it will turn to be critical to become a leader in the multidisciplinary care of the cancer patient.

I am incredibly fortunate and thankful for all the opportunities I have had during the journey that has brought me to this stage in life. I eagerly look ahead to continue to be part of the SICO family in the future and to continue to grow as surgical oncologist in this high-quality network. In return, I pledge to provide the society with my diverse background and experience, my indomitable optimism, an irrepressible thirst for knowledge, and a resolute passion for patient care.

Gaya Spolverato, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gaya Spolverato', written in a cursive style.