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I took a degree in Industrial Design at the Politecnico of Milan, before moving to Medicine. I graduated as a medical doctor at the University of Pavia in 1981 and then spent three years at the Laboratory of Clinical Pharmacology of the Mario Negri Institute in Milan.

In 1988 I entered the clinical arena at the Department of Dermatology of the University of Milan, Bergamo General Hospital. I spent two years as an invited professor of Dermatology at the University of Geneva (2000-2002) and qualified as a full professor of Dermatology in Italy in 2012.

My research interests focus on classical and clinical epidemiology in Dermatology and on methods to assess the efficacy and safety of medical interventions. I have always considered the health care system as the "natural laboratory" for a clinically oriented scientist.

I tried to translate this concept into practice by establishing in 1986 a network of clinical centres to conduct collaborative research, The Italian Group for Epidemiologic Research in Dermatology (GISED) which is still active.

I have been also one of the founder of the European Network for Epidemiologic Research in Dermatology (EDEN) in 1995. My *motto* is "From populations to single cases and back again!"