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## Silvio Greco: a short biography

(by Giuseppe Paxia)

Silvio Greco was born on 12 April 1941 in Serravalle Scrivia (AL) and studied Mathematics at the University of Pisa, where he graduated “cum laude” in 1963.

He quickly revealed an outstanding potential for scientific research. His cooperation with Paolo Salmon was particularly fruitful and stimulating for him and not only because of his important international collaborations.

He spent several academic periods abroad: he visited Toulouse, France, and then he moved to the United States, at Brandeis University, where he attended courses by D. Buchsbaum, R. Hartshorne, H. Matsumura and O. Zariski.

His cultural development is swift, and still very young, in 1969, he was appointed *Lecturer in Algebra*; in 1970 becomes Professor at the University of Genova and since 1973 he is Full Professor of Geometry at Politecnico di Torino.

In this period of full scientific maturity, Silvio Greco shows his uncommon talent to advise with simplicity, concreteness and generosity many young students and colleagues. Always ready to give the right “advice” or to suggest the perfect “counterexample” to enlighten the darkest and intriguing questions.

S. Greco has been research advisor of more than 20 mathematicians from the Universities of Genova, Catania, Bologna, Milano, Napoli, Siena and the Politecnico di Torino. Many of them achieved the rank of full Professor and have been internationally acclaimed. Although many of his alumni share his same age, all of them agree that Silvio has played a crucial role in the development of their scientific careers (click [here](#) for a picture of Silvio with his last student).

The academic career of Silvio Greco was very successful. He obtained the membership of many Academies but he has also demonstrated a deep dedication to Politecnico di Torino by serving in many faculty committees and as Director of the local Department of Mathematics. Since 2009 he is Emeritus Professor of Politecnico di Torino.

His many contributions to Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry are important and original and have deeply influenced the research of many other mathematicians.

He has been the Italian chairman of scientific projects in partnership with Spain (Accion integrada), Germany (Progetto Vigoni) and Scientific coordinator of CNR’s “Algebro-geometric methods in the theory of Integrable Systems”, a multi-university research initiative.

He obtained a scholarship to study in Toulouse (France), and several visiting professorships, e.g. at Brandeis (USA), Punjab (India), Pune (India), Nagoya

(Japan), Queen's (Canada), Purdue (USA), Institut Mittag-Leffler (Sweden), Boston (USA), Paderborn (Germany), Salamanca (Spain), Valladolid (Spain) and Barcellona (Spain).

Silvio Greco is universally beloved by all of his colleagues and friends: everybody appreciates and recognizes his extraordinary intelligence, his humanity, his sensibility and his fine way to be a true, authentic gentleman.

(G.P.)

### Selected Papers by Silvio Greco

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