

JCCA Journal

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*The Joint Civic Committee
of Italian Americans*
3800 Division St. • Stone Park, IL 60165
708.450.9050 www.jccia.com
~ Organized in 1952 ~



Dr. Benedetti earns the coveted Bernardin Award

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans bestows the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award upon a recipient who exemplifies the virtues of caring, humility and goodwill that were the hallmark of Cardinal Bernardin's tenure as Archbishop of Chicago.

It is my distinct pleasure to introduce Enrico Benedetti, MD, FACS, Warren H. Cole chair in surgery, professor and head of the Department of Surgery and director of the Transplant Center of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Benedetti will receive this prestigious award at our 2009 gala on June 13 at the Hilton Chicago. To make reservations, call 708-450-9050.

Enrico Benedetti was born in Perugia, Italy, on Oct. 3, 1960. His parents, Luigi and Gioconda, are both teachers from Gubbio in the province of Umbria. The doctor has two older sisters: The elder, Grazia, is a judge of the Appellate Court in Rome, while the younger, Angela, is a physicist of the atmosphere working in London, England. Dr. Benedetti is married to Carla Benedetti and they have a 7-year-old daughter, Eleanora. Mrs. Benedetti was an attorney in Italy. She taught Italian for her first three years in America. She is currently a realtor in Chicago.

Dr. Benedetti graduated cum laude from the medical school in the University of Florence in 1985 and completed a surgical residency at the same university by 1989.

In 1989, he moved to Chicago to start a United States surgery residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago, which he completed in 1993. Dr. Benedetti earned a fellowship in transplant surgery at the University of Minnesota. Since 1994, Dr. Benedetti has been a transplant surgeon at the University of Illinois. He started as an assistant professor of surgery and rose through the ranks first to associate professor in 1999 and then to professor in 2005. The former director of liver, kidney, bowel and pancreas transplantation at UIC, Dr. Benedetti endowed the Warren H. Cole chair of surgery with donations of more than \$2 million.

Dr. Benedetti has published more than 250 articles and more than 30 book chapters and is the editor of the seminal book, "Living Donor Organ Transplantation."

Included among his many accomplishments are:

- the first successful combined coronary artery bypass and liver transplant worldwide,
- the first robotic donor nephrectomy for living donor kidney transplant worldwide in 2000,
- the first combined living donor liver/bowel transplant from adult to an infant worldwide in 2003,
- the first robotic combined kidney/pancreas procurement for living donor kidney/pancreas transplant worldwide in 2005, and
- the largest series worldwide of living donor intestinal transplantation (24 of a total of 45 cases done in the world).

His pioneering work in living donor intestinal and liver transplantation for children under the age of 5 has saved the lives of children with no hope of survival with standard treatments.

You'd think that Dr. Benedetti would be all work and no play, but his favorite hobbies are soccer and horseback riding.

We thank you, Dr. Enrico Benedetti, for allowing the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans to present you with the most coveted honor in our community, the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award. You are truly a role model and inspiration to all of our youth and a credit to your fellow man and our community.



A SPECIAL NOTE

Congratulations to Robert Allegrini and his wife Cristina on the birth of their second son, Marco, who joins his big brother Alessandro. Also, our most sincere congratulations to Robert, our former executive director of the JCCIA, who was recently elected the president of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest.