

*Vittorio Ventafridda Award 2018
to Joanne Wolfe*

Doctor Joanne Wolfe has been pioneer and an internationally recognized authority in child-specific Palliative Care throughout her brilliant career. Her dedication and many outstanding achievements have had a significant impact on palliative care delivery to children of all ages. She has developed and continues to direct many educational programmes and curricula, and has focused her research interests on palliative care provision for children making important contributions to developing care delivery that fosters hope, optimizes quality of life and provides comfort to seriously ill children and their families.

To recite her impressive curriculum and list her many academic accomplishments is unnecessary. It suffices to mention that she recently became President Elect of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and, only last year, she was nominated as one of the top 10 influential leaders in the palliative care field in North America. Her nomination read: "She has been the voice for children with serious illness and their families. She is a great visionary in developing, implementing, teaching and mentoring."

Her aptitude as a brilliant scientist and dedicated clinician is distinguished by an intense humility, simplicity and generosity, a delightful amalgamation which is infused with a acute sense of humour that renders her truly an extraordinary person.

Therefore, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the development and constant improvement of Paediatric Palliative Care, the Maruzza Foundation is pleased and honoured to award the 2018 Ventafridda Prize to Doctor Joanne Wolfe.