

A portrait of Alessandra Graziottin, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a red jacket with a black collar featuring white and red decorative elements. The background is a colorful, abstract wall with vertical stripes and circular patterns. A banner in the background mentions the 'EAU Congress Milan 2013'.

TEN QUESTIONS

Interview by Joel Vega

Photography by Jack Tillmanns

Born: August 5

Specialty: Gynaecology, oncology, certified psycho-therapist in sexual medicine

City: Milan, Italy

Awards: Honorary member of the Canadian society of gynaecology. Award from the Arabian society of gynaecology.

• **What project are you working on now?**

I have built this foundation devoted to the cure of pain in women. I organise sessions and courses in gynaecology and I'm also active in women education. I also write for various Italian newspapers regarding female pelvic pain and chronic cystitis.

• **What's the first operation you ever did?**

In my first year of training, I assisted as fourth operator in a hysterectomy.

• **What do you think is the biggest challenge in gynaecology?**

Women in Italy are more afraid of natural delivery since they are not properly assisted. It is a trend in the Western world to choose Caesarian section. As doctors we have to educate women regarding pain during childbirth. In gynaecology, one challenge is to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

• **What's the last great book you have read?**

Élisabeth Gille's *"The Mirador: Dreamed Memories of Irene Nemirovsky."* A fantastic book.

• **What's the last thing that surprised you?**

I've seen an artistic performance at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. It involved video, sound and music which were all very moving, beautiful and with a hypnotic effect.

• **Do you collect anything?**

I would rather say I collect memories. But I have a passion for horses-- fantastic animals.

• **What's your favourite hour in a day and why?**

It's the sunset and the light. I enjoy the transition from day to night.

• **What would you be doing in your free time?**

Horse-riding, skiing, sailing and dancing; I like the Argentinian tango and the boogie.

• **What question you haven't found an answer to yet?**

The mystery of pain. That's why I spend so much energy and commitment to relieve people from physical, chronic pain.

• **What is your biggest fear?**

Compromising or losing physical integrity like harming the body in an accident.

ALESSANDRA GRAZIOTTIN