CRITICAL PATH INSTITUTE

In Memoriam: C-Path Remembers Dr. Gil L'Italien's Legacy of Science, Compassion, and Collaboration

C-Path Industry Co-Director and regulatory science titan, Gil L'Italien.

Critical Path Institute is deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. Gilbert L'Italien (Gil to those who knew him well). Gil's visionary leadership and scientific rigor left an indelible mark on the neurological and rare disease communities. Gil was a passionate advocate for patients living with neurological and neurodegenerative diseases and a steadfast champion of collaborative, data-driven science aimed at transforming therapeutic development.

As Industry Co-Director of Critical Path to Therapeutics for the Ataxias (CPTA) at C-Path, Gil brought a rare combination of scientific excellence, strategic insight, and deep empathy to his work. His partnership with C-Path helped shape a precompetitive framework that united regulators, academia, industry, and patient groups around a shared mission—to accelerate the development of meaningful treatments for the ataxias through innovative regulatory science. Gil was also an active member of C-Path's Critical Path for Parkinson's (CPP) consortium and a fundamental contributor to its efforts to optimize clinical endpoints. He served as a leading industry partner in demonstrating how collaborations can impact development of patient-centered outcome measures. He was passionate about leading research integrating both qualitative and quantitative data and was a true champion of data sharing. Gil's role is one that sets a precedent for all others to follow and serves to inspire patients as to how industry takes action on advancing patient-focused drug development with a sense of urgency.

"Gil's impact on C-Path, and on the broader scientific and patient communities, cannot be overstated. His deep commitment to collaboration and his passion for advancing regulatory science set a new standard for how we work together to serve the full community impacted by SCA," said C-Path's CPTA Executive Director Terina Martinez. "Through his leadership with CPTA, he helped forge partnerships that not only accelerated progress for the ataxia community but also refined how to determine what meaningful, patient-focused innovation looks like. Gil led with both heart and intellect, and his legacy will continue to guide and inspire us at C-Path for years to come."

At Biohaven Pharmaceuticals, Gil played a key role in advancing the company's neurological and rare disease programs, applying the same intellectual curiosity and integrity that defined his entire career.

His expertise in translational and regulatory science, deep epidemiology background and emphasis on health economics and outcomes research, coupled with his ability to bridge disciplines and perspectives, helped drive progress not only within Biohaven but across the broader regulatory science community.

An exceptional scientist and life-long mentor, Gil's contributions to multiple neurology-related fields of research will endure through the many initiatives, collaborations, and regulatory milestones he helped inspire. More than his professional achievements, those who had the privilege to work with him will remember his warmth, generosity, and unwavering commitment to improving patients' lives.

The C-Path community mourns his loss and honors his legacy—a legacy of scientific courage, partnership, and hope. To read more about Gil's life and legacy, read his full obituary here.