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# FDNY Physician Who Broadened Defibrillator Use Dies

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## EMSResponder.com News

A recently retired FDNY physician who helped broaden the use of defibrillators, succumbed to his bout with lung cancer on Oct. 12 at the age of 58, according to [Newsday](#).

In 1994, Gary Lombardi, along with his co-researchers, found that less than two percent of New Yorkers who go into cardiac arrest outside the hospital survive to be discharged home.

That study helped expand the use of defibrillators that are now commonplace in police cruisers, schools and offices.

As an 18-year-old, Lombardi first began driving ambulances in the city in 1969 for the newly formed government-run Emergency Medical Service. He became one of the department's first paramedics, the newspaper report said.

He later earned his medical degree in 1982 from Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Lombardi returned to NYC's EMS in 1985 as a telemetry physician, working the night shift, giving live advice to paramedics in the field on split-second medical decisions.

He continued the position after the FDNY took over the city's medical services before retiring this past July.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Jane; his daughters Brooke, Pamela and Jill; by his mother, Ann, and his brothers Robert and Mark.



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