



D-day 2017

Torino, 19 Settembre 2017



Moment of socialization, exchange and cultural enrichment for PhD students, teachers and tutors; exceptional architectural frame for lectures by high scientific profile; modern context for presenting the research activity by the PhD students of the School in Life Sciences and Health at the University of Turin: this is the D-DAY, one of the common consolidated training activities of the School.

Program

9.30: **Welcome address**

10.00: **Plenary Lecture**

Prof. Amedeo COLUMBANO

University of Cagliari, Italy

"Animal models as useful tools for the study of hepatocarcinogenesis?"

11.00: **Poster Sessions – part I**

12.30: **lunch**

14.00: **Poster Sessions – part II**

15.30: **Plenary Lecture**

Prof. Luigi NALDINI

"Vita-Salute" San Raffaele University, Milano, Italy

"Advanced genetic engineering to broaden gene therapy application to the treatment of inherited diseases and cancer?"

16.30: **Poster Awards**



Special Guests

Amedeo COLUMBANO obtained Ph.D. degree in Biology at the University of Cagliari in 1974, where he performed his research activity as post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of General Pathology. In 1975-1979 he was assistant professor at the University of Cagliari and in 1978 he joined the department of Pathology, at the University of Toronto, in Canada, where he often returned as Visiting Assistant Professor in 1983, 1986 and 1988. Since 1990 he is full professor of Pathology at the School of Medicine, University of Cagliari. He spent time as Visiting professor at the Nara Medical School, n Nara, Japan in 1992 and at the University of Pittsburg, USA, in 1995. He has a long-standing interest in the study of hepatocarcinogenesis, the role of thyroid hormone T3 on the development of hepatocellular carcinoma in different models and how microRNA modifications can affect the hepatocarcinogenesis process. More recently his studies are focused on the emerging role of the pentose phosphate pathway in hepatocellular carcinoma. He is member of Scientific Committee of the Associazione Italiana Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC) and since 2015 Director of the PhD program in Molecular and Translational Medicine, at the University of Cagliari. His scientific contribution is documented by many scientific publications in international peer-reviewed journals such as *Hepatology*, *J. Clin. Invest.*, *Clin. Cancer Res.*, *Cancer Res.*

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Luigi NALDINI graduated in Medicine & Surgery from the University of Torino in 1983, entered the PhD Program in Cell and Tissue Biology with P.M. Comoglio, at the University of Turin, and obtained his Ph.D. degree in 1987. Then he joined Dr. J. Schlessinger lab (Rockville, MD, USA) for two years. In 1990 he became assistant professor at the University of Torino where he identified the "Hepatocyte Growth Factor" as the Met receptor ligand and proved its identity with the "Scatter Factor", in addition to its characterization in promoting motility and invasion of epithelial cells. Dr Naldini has been Visiting Scientist (1994-1996) at the Genetic Lab of Salk Institute, La Jolla, USA, and then Senior Scientist (1996-1998) at Cell Genesysis, Foster City, USA, where he first described the use of hybrid lentiviral vectors for gene transfer into non-dividing cells in 1996 (the original paper reporting this work is one of top-cited articles in Science). In 1998 he became associate professor and Director of Gene Therapy Lab. at IRCC, Candiolo. In 2003 he moved to "Vita-Salute San Raffaele" University, Milano, where he is Director of San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy since 2008. Through this time he continued to investigate new gene transfer approaches and exploited them to gain insights into fundamental biological processes, such as stem cell activity and tumor angiogenesis, and to develop new therapeutic strategies for treating genetic disease and cancer.

Dr. Naldini has published peer-reviewed original articles and reviews in top journals such as *Cell*, *Sciences*, *Nature*, *Nature Medicine*, *Nature Biotechnology*, *The Lancet*.