

Scientific conference
The event will take place in hybrid form

NOVEMBER
18th 2022

Lessons learned and further road to the therapies of genetic neurological disorders. What we have, unmet needs and future perspectives

XXXII OTTORINO ROSSI AWARD

IRCCS Mondino Foundation
Pavia, via Mondino 2, Berlucci Hall
entrance from via Magenes

www.mondino.it



**FONDAZIONE
MONDINO**
Istituto Neurologico Nazionale
a Carattere Scientifico | IRCCS

Sistema Sanitario  Regione
Lombardia



Ottorino Rossi was born on 17th January, 1877, in Solbiate Comasco, near Como, Italy. In 1895 he enrolled at the medical faculty of the University of Pavia as a student of the Ghislieri College and during his undergraduate years was an intern pupil of the Institute of General Pathology and Histology, headed by Camillo Golgi. In 1901 Rossi obtained his medical doctor degree with the highest grades and a distinction. In October 1902 he went on to the Clinica Neuropatologica (Hospital for Nervous and Mental Diseases) directed by Casimiro Mondino to continue his studies. At the same time, he continued to frequent the Golgi Institute which was the leading Italian centre for biological research. Having completed his clinical preparation in Florence under Eugenio Tanzi, and in Munich at the Institute directed by Emil Kraepelin, he taught at the Universities of Siena, Sassari and, from 1925, Pavia. In Pavia he was made Rector of the University (serving from 1925 to 1936), and during his tenure he was instrumental in getting the buildings of the new San Matteo General Hospital completed.

Ottorino Rossi made many important scientific contributions to the fields of neurology, neurophysiopathology and neuroanatomy. These include: the identification of glucose as the reducing agent of cerebrospinal fluid, the demonstration that fibres from the spinal ganglia pass into the dorsal branch of the spinal roots, and the description of the cerebellar symptom which he termed "the primary asymmetries of positions". Moreover, he conducted important studies on the immunopathology of the nervous system, the serodiagnosis of neurosyphilis and the regeneration of the nervous system. He was the author of major scientific works including an extensive investigation of arteriosclerosis in the brain, *L'Arteriosclerosi dei Centri Cerebrali e Spinali* (1906), which dealt with the development of lesions of vascular origin. He died in 1936 at the age of 59, having named the Ghislieri College as his heir. Ottorino Rossi was one of Camillo Golgi's most illustrious pupils as well as one of the most eminent descendants of Pavia's medico-biological tradition. Since 1990, thanks to an initiative of the

then new Scientific Director (Prof. Giuseppe Nappi), the IRCCS Mondino Foundation has held an annual Ottorino Rossi Award Conference at which the award is presented to a scientist who has made an important contribution to research in the field of the neurosciences.

In the course of its 30-year history, the Ottorino Rossi Award has, on two occasions, been theme based. In the period 2010-2012, it was devoted to *The Founders of Neurology*, namely the three founders of the most important Italian Schools of Neurology of the twentieth century, while the awards assigned from 2017 to 2019 celebrated the *Pavia Legacy*. This latter series stemmed from the desire to recognise eminent researchers with strong scientific and cultural links with the city of Pavia.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to stage the Ottorino Rossi Award Conference in 2020, but the tradition was resumed the following year. This year, 2022, brings the 32nd edition of the Award.

Previous Winners / Ottorino Rossi Award

1990 Vittorio Erspamer <i>Rome (Italy)</i>	1998 Alain Berthoz <i>Paris (France)</i>	2005 Jes Olesen <i>Copenhagen (Denmark)</i>	2013 Henry Markram <i>Lausanne (Switzerland)</i>
1991 Paolo Pinelli <i>Milan (Italy)</i>	1999 Ottar Sjaastad <i>Trondheim (Norway)</i>	2006 Stanley Finger <i>S. Louis (USA)</i>	2014 Emmanuele A. Jannini <i>L'Aquila (Italy)</i>
1992 Giovanni Di Chiro <i>Bethesda (USA)</i>	2000 John Timothy Greenamyre <i>Atlanta (USA)</i>	2007 Michael A. Moskowitz <i>Boston (USA)</i>	2015 Roberto Crea <i>Hayward (USA)</i>
1993 Clarence Joseph Gibbs <i>Bethesda (USA)</i>	2001 Salvatore Di Mauro <i>New York (USA)</i>	2008 Patricia Smith Churchland <i>San Diego (USA)</i>	2016 Richard Stanislaus Joseph Frackowiak <i>Lausanne (Switzerland)</i>
1994 David Zee <i>Baltimore (USA)</i>	2002 Elio Raviola <i>Boston (USA)</i>	2009 Stephen P. Hunt <i>London (UK)</i>	2017 Pierluigi Nicotera <i>Bonn (Germany)</i>
1995 Elio Lugaresi <i>Bologna (Italia)</i>	2003 Michael Welch <i>Chicago (USA)</i>	2010 Vincenzo Bonavita <i>Naples (Italy)</i>	2018 Gianvito Martino <i>Milan (Italy)</i>
1996 Michel Fardeau <i>Paris (France)</i>	2004 François Boller <i>Paris (France)</i>	2011 Cesare Fieschi <i>Rome (Italy)</i>	2019 Adriano Aguzzi <i>Zurich (Switzerland)</i>
1997 Salvador Moncada <i>London (UK)</i>		2012 Giorgio Bernardi <i>Rome (Italy)</i>	2021 Rigmor Højland Jensen <i>Copenhagen (Denmark)</i>



Francesco Muntoni was born in Cagliari in 1959. He studied in Italy, graduating in medicine at the University of Cagliari in 1984, and specialising in child neurology and psychiatry at the University of Sassari

in 1989. He started his medical career in the Department of Child Neuropsychiatry at the University Hospital of Cagliari.

He has worked in the UK since 1993, where he is currently Head of the Dubowitz Neuromuscular Centre at UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health.

His London career began in 1993, and over the first few years saw him working initially as a lecturer, and then senior lecturer in paediatric neurology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, and then as a reader and honorary consultant in paediatric neurology at Imperial College London, Hammersmith Hospital. In 1996, he was made Clinical and Research Director at the Hammersmith Hospital Neuromuscular Centre, linked to the hospital's Department of Paediatrics and Neonatal Medicine, and in 1998, he was appointed Professor of Paediatric Neurology at Imperial College London. In 2001, he became head of the national referral centre for congenital muscular dystrophy at Hammersmith Hospital.

He was head of the Developmental

Neuroscience Programme at Hammersmith Hospital from 2008 to 2018, where he is still Theme Lead in Novel Therapies at the Biomedical Research Centre. He is also Co-Director of Medical Research at the MRC Translational Research Centre at UCL.

In the clinical and research sphere, Professor Muntoni has always focused mainly on novel gene identification, deep phenotyping, and translational research, especially in the area of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), congenital muscular dystrophy, and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), although his interest extends to all developmental neuromuscular diseases. He has conducted and continues to conduct numerous natural history studies, has designed multiple clinical trials aimed at the development of therapies for neuromuscular diseases, and has thus contributed significantly to the revolution in the field of SMA therapy that has taken place in recent years, transforming a very serious and fatal disease into a treatable condition. His

collaborations with colleagues in the UK, Europe, USA and Australia have made it possible to identify over 30 genes responsible for neuromuscular diseases. Overall, Professor Muntoni's work has been shaped by his strong interest in clinical aspects, which are both the starting point and the ultimate target of his pathogenetic, molecular and deep phenotyping studies, but he has never lost sight of how the evolution of scientific knowledge can impact patients and their expectations. Professor Muntoni is currently participating in 17 funded studies (as PI in 12 of them and Co-PI in another two), mainly focusing on clinical aspects, the study of biomarkers, and the development of therapies for DMD and SMA. They include, in particular, the over six-million-pound BIND (Brain Involvement in Dystrophinopathies) project, and a 2.4-million-euro project focusing on multisystemic aspects of SMA. He also sits on the editorial boards of various journals devoted to neuropaediatrics and neuromuscular disorders.

Francesco Muntoni's incessant research activity has resulted in over 600 peer-reviewed publications and his work has a very high impact (he has an H-index of 127). Professor Muntoni is a member of numerous scientific societies including the European Paediatric Neurological Society (EPNS) and the World Muscle Society (WMS), as well as many professional bodies, and since 1996 has held prestigious institutional roles. Between 1994 and 2017, he was the recipient of nine scientific awards. Alongside his scientific work, which includes the supervision of high-calibre researchers engaged in scientific research in the field of neuromuscular disease, he also boasts great clinical expertise. The centre he directs sees more than 2,000 children affected by neuromuscular diseases each year, and is therefore an essential point of reference for many clinicians wishing to specialise in this field, and for researchers interested in investigating pathogenetic aspects of neuromuscular disease.



Background to the conference

The starting point and inspiration for the scientific programme is the lecture by Prof. Muntoni, who will explain how, in recent years, translational research has managed to find a cure for spinal muscular atrophy, an extremely severe genetic disease that was long considered incurable. This was achieved through a combination of deep phenotyping, better understanding of the disease pathogenesis, and the development of innovative technologies aimed at correcting the underlying gene defect. Research into other dramatic neuromuscular diseases, such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy, on the other hand, has not yet been translated

into effective therapeutic strategies, highlighting the existence of conceptual and methodological difficulties that remain hard to overcome.

The conference will highlight recent advances, unmet needs, and future perspectives in the quest for novel therapeutic strategies, looking at key examples in the fields of paediatric and adult inherited neurological disorders. Prof. Muntoni's lecture will be followed by two general lectures, the first dealing with the difficulties in designing clinical trials in rare diseases (especially those of childhood), and the second providing an overview of innovative technologies for the diagnosis and

treatment of hereditary disorders. In the afternoon session, lectures will cover four neurological disease types (frontotemporal dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, metabolic diseases, and Parkinson's disease), focusing on their genetic basis, pathogenetic mechanisms, and most importantly, on current and novel therapeutic perspectives, whose development, although still conditioned by criticalities and difficulties, is destined to change the natural history of these still incurable conditions.

8.45 Registration and welcome coffee

9.30 Greetings from the Authorities

XXXII OTTORINO ROSSI AWARD

9.40 **Presentation of the Winner**
Angela Berardinelli (Pavia)

10.00 Lecture by the Winner
*Lessons learned from novel therapies
for childhood neuromuscular disorders*
Francesco Muntoni (UCL, London)

11.00 Award ceremony
Francesco Svelto (Pavia)
Roberto Bergamaschi (Pavia)

CONFERENCE

■ SESSION I

Chairpersons:

Renato Borgatti (Pavia)

Stefania Corti (Milan)

11.20 *Why is it so difficult to design trials
in childhood rare diseases?*

Eugenio M. Mercuri (Rome)

12.00 *New technologies in the diagnosis
and treatment of inherited
neurological disorders*

Enza Maria Valente (Pavia)

12.40 *Discussion*

13.00 *Lunch*

■ SESSION II

Chairpersons:

Stefano Cappa (Pavia)

Barbara Garavaglia (Milan)

14.00 *Genetic frontotemporal dementia:
from pathogenic mechanisms
to disease modifying drugs*

Daniela Galimberti (Milan)

14.40 *Strategies for gene therapy
in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)*

Vincenzo Silani (Milan)

15.20 *Gene therapy for inborn
errors of metabolism*

Nicola Brunetti-Pierri (Naples)

16.00 *Similarities and differences between
genetic and pharmacological models
of Parkinson's disease:*

pathophysiological implications

Antonio Pisani (Pavia)

16.40 *Discussion*

17.00 *Concluding Remarks*

Scientific Supervisor

Roberto Bergamaschi, Scientific Director
IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia)

Scientific Committee

Angela Berardinelli, Renato Borgatti,
Alfredo Costa, Luca Diamanti,
Claudio Pacchetti, Cristina Tassorelli (Pavia)

Speakers and Chairpersons

Angela BERARDINELLI

Research Unit of Neuromuscular Diseases of Childhood and Adolescence, IRCCS Mondino Foundation

Roberto BERGAMASCHI

Scientific Director IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia)

Renato BORGATTI

IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia) and University of Pavia

Nicola BRUNETTI-PIERRI

Department of Translational Medical Sciences, University of Naples Federico II

Stefano CAPPÀ

IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia) and IUSS (Pavia)

Stefania CORTI

Neuroscience Unit, University of Milan and IRCCS Ca' Granda Foundation, Polyclinic Hospital (Milan)

Daniela GALIMBERTI

Neurology-Neurodegenerative Diseases Unit, University of Milan and IRCCS Ca' Granda Foundation, Polyclinic Hospital (Milan)

Barbara GARAVAGLIA

Genetics of Movement Disorders and Energy Metabolism Disorders, IRCCS Carlo Besta Neurological Institute Foundation (Milan)

Eugenio M. MERCURI

Department of Women's and Child Health and Public Health Sciences, IRCCS Gemelli University Hospital, Catholic University (Rome)

Francesco MUNTONI

Dubowitz Neuromuscular Centre, University College London (UCL, London)

Antonio PISANI

Research Centre of Movement Disorders, IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia) and University of Pavia

Vincenzo SILANI

Department of Neurology and Neuroscience Laboratory, IRCCS Auxologico Italian Institute (Milan) and University of Milan

Francesco SVELTO

President IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia) and Rector of the University of Pavia

Enza Maria VALENTE

Neurogenetic Research Center, IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia) and University of Pavia



Accreditamento ECM-CPD

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Sono stati preassegnati n. 6 crediti ECM-CPD per le seguenti figure professionali:

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- Assistente Sanitario
- Biologo
- Chimico
- Farmacista (farmacia ospedaliera)
- Infermiere
- Infermiere pediatrico
- Psicologo (Psicologia, Psicoterapia)
- Tecnico Sanitario di Laboratorio Biomedico

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Indipendentemente dai crediti formativi, al termine dell'incontro sarà possibile richiedere il certificato di frequenza scrivendo a ecm@mondino.it.

L'iscrizione, gratuita, è obbligatoria al seguente link: http://corsi.mondino.it/corsi_list.php

Other information

Training office

Silvia Molinari

IRCCS Mondino Foundation (Pavia)
formazione.informazione@mondino.it
ecm@mondino.it

Organizing secretariat

Bquadro congressi srl

eventi@bquadro-congressi.it

Press office

Echo arte e comunicazione

francesca.monza@echo.pv.it
armando.barone@echo.pv.it

Registration Participants, Speakers and Chairpersons

Entrance from Via Magenes

Under the patronage of



SINPIA
Società Italiana di Neuropsichiatria
dell'Infanzia e dell'Adolescenza



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