

### **Prof. Antonio Giordano visits the Institute of Cellular Pharmacology Ltd. (ICP Ltd.)**

This week, renowned scientist Prof. Antonio Giordano is invited by Dr. Manuele Biazzo, a former student of Prof. Giordano, and today Scientific Director of ICP Ltd, a company founded by Dr. Gilles Gutierrez. ICP Ltd. is housed within the Mosta Technopark, and is involved in several research projects. Prof Giordano will be a guest speaker in a conference which is going to be held at ICP Ltd on the 14<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am about the latest developments on cancer research. Indeed, this visit follows another one by eminent Italian Neurologist Prof. Giacomo Rizzolatti who is associated with the discovery of mirror neurons.

Antonio Giordano is Professor of Pathology at Siena University, Italy. He currently serves also as Professor of Molecular Biology at the Temple University in Philadelphia, where he is also Director and founder of the Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine. His work extends to both scientific and social domains and during his stay in Malta, Prof. Giordano shall be exploring collaboration avenues with ICP Ltd in particular in the area of cancer treatment and prevention.

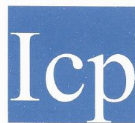
Prof. Giordano research activity is mainly devoted to the study of the mechanisms responsible for cell cycle deregulation in cancer. He discovered key regulators of the cell cycle and its pioneering studies contributed to the understanding of some of the central mechanisms of cancer development. He discovered, in 1993, the tumor suppressor gene RBL2/p130, whose expression is altered in a wide variety

of human cancers. He identified also CDK9 and CDK10, two other key players in cell cycle regulation and cell differentiation, and made important contributions to the study of the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor p27, which is an important prognostic factor in cancer patients.

However, his most important achievement is probably the recent discovery of the Heterogeneous Nuclear Ribonucleoprotein D (HNRNPD), which can be linked with the treatment of some types of breast and ovarian cancers.

But Prof. Giordano's works extend beyond the scientific arena and also encompass the social aspect. In his two books called '*Campania, Land of Poison*' and '*Monnezza di stato. La terra dei fuochi nell'Italia dei veleni*', Prof. Giordano focuses on the impact of the environmental on human health. He spent time and energy to show the correlation between cancer and environmental pollution in the Italian Region of Campania. His studies showed how an increase in the number of new cancer cases could be attributed to the dumping of illegal toxic waste.

Prof. Giordano and Dr. Biazzo are exploring how they can further their collaboration in the field of cancer research, in particular through the use of Mediterranean and Pacific plant extracts. This collaboration brings together Prof. Giordano's wealth of scientific knowledge and experience and ICP Ltd's extensive in-house knowledge built over years of research. Beyond research, Prof. Giordano is also enticed by the idea of making use of the Biology School at ICP Ltd, which has recently been accredited by the NCFHE, whereby he could share his extensive knowledge with other researchers and professionals.



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