



Andrea Ballabio

Andrea Ballabio was born in Naples, Italy on January 27th, 1957. After his graduation in Medicine in 1981 at the University of Naples, Italy, he took residency training in Pediatrics at the same university. He has spent several years working in the field of genetic diseases, first in Italy, then in the UK and subsequently in the USA where he held the positions of Associate Professor of Molecular Genetics and of Co-director of the Human Genome Center at the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. He is the founder and director of the Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM) in Naples, Italy, He is also Director of the Biology For Medicine (BioForMe) foundation and Full Professor of Medical Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Naples “Federico II”.

Prof. Ballabio’s research interests are the elucidation of the biological mechanisms underlying genetic diseases, using both traditional and state of the art genomic approaches, and the development of innovative therapeutic approaches. Prof. Ballabio’s team identified numerous genes whose mutations cause human inherited diseases, leading to the unraveling of their pathogenetic mechanisms. Among his recent discoveries is the identification of a gene network regulating cellular clearance (Sardiello et al., *Science*, 2009). He has published approximately 250 papers in prestigious, international scientific journals. Prof. Ballabio was the President of the European Society of Human Genetics and is a Council member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). He has received numerous national and international awards for research and culture, among which the 2007 International Award of the European Society of Human Genetics. In 2007 he was appointed “Commendatore of the Italian Republic” by the President of Italy Giorgio Napolitano.