**Laudation of Prof. Dr. Renato V.Iozzo**

Renato Vincenzo Iozzo is a Professor of Pathology and Cell Biology, Director of Electron Microscopy , member of Executive Committees of the Department of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and the Kimmel Cancer Centre at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

Professor Iozzo graduated from the University of Florence, School of Medicine, in Italy. He was trained as a pathologist in Italy and the USA, where he joined the laboratory of Tom Wight at the University of Washington as Senior Fellow.

In 1988, Professor Iozzo was appointed as professor at the Department of Pathology, Anatomy and Cell Biology of Thomas Jefferson University, where he has been working since then. After the opening of the Kimmel Cancer Centre at Thomas Jefferson University, he became the director of its Extracellular Matrix Program.

He was the director of Advanced Basic Science in Pathology for years and still actively participates in teaching programmes at Jefferson University. Professor Iozzo has published 281 peer-reviewed papers in highly ranked journals, and edited two books. His scientific activity has been supported by more than 10 million dollars in the last 20 years. He has trained more than 80 researchers, including undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows.

His scientific activity has been recognised through numerous awards. He was President Elect of the American Society for Matrix Biology between 2007 and 2008, vice-President Elect of the International Society for Matrix Biology, and President between 2009 and 2010.

He received an *Honorary Professorship* from the School of Life Sciences at University of Mancheste in 2008, and an *Honorary Medal Award* from the University of Patras in 2009.

He has been on the editorial board of many highly ranked international journals, such as Laboratory Investigation, American Journal of Pathology, Matrix Biology, Journal of Biological Chemistry and Journal of Clinical Investigation. He is also a member of the editorial Board of Pathology and Oncology Research.

Professor Iozzo has had a fruitful collaboration with dr. Ilona Kovalszky and her research group at the First Department of Pathology and Experimental Cancer Research for twenty years.