

Robert A. Kyle Award for Outstanding Contributions to Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia

After his medical graduation at University of Pavia in 1976, Dr. Merlini trained in the investigation of diseases caused by monoclonal immunoglobulins and misfolded proteins. He trained in the laboratories of Prof. Jan Waldenström at Lund University (1977-78, 1980), and Prof. Elliott F. Osserman at Columbia University (1981-82, 1984-86). When he returned to Italy, he established and directed the National Referral Center for Research and Treatment of Systemic Amyloidosis at the Institute of Internal Medicine of the Research Institute Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia. More than 2000 patients with systemic amyloidosis are now followed in a clinically-annotated biobank under Dr. Merlini's auspices. As the Director of the Biotechnology Research Laboratories he fostered the continuous translation of molecular mechanisms of disease into new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. He pioneered the application of proteomics for diagnostic purposes, a technology now considered the gold standard for the typing of systemic amyloidoses. In 2010, he became the Director of the Clinical Chemistry Laboratories of the IRCCS PSM. Dr. Merlini has been the President of the International Society of Amyloidosis (2006-2010), and organizer and President of the XII International Symposium on Amyloidosis (Rome, 2010). He has been the principal investigator of several major national research projects, and participated in projects funded by the EU. He has established collaborative researches with investigators with many international centers. His work resulted in the discovery of new prototypic anti-amyloid small molecules, and a standard of care for light chain amyloidosis. This intense activity in translational research resulted also into the development of the new gold-standard for the diagnosis of systemic amyloidosis based on proteomics. Dr. Merlini has served as an author on nearly 500 peer-reviewed publications. In 2008, he received a Jan Gosta Waldenström Award for contributions to the scientific understanding and care of patients with Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia.



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