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We cannot begin this issue of the Pezcoller journal without a moved thought to the memory of David Livingston, a great scientist and a great friend of the Pezcoller Foundation, who died suddenly last October 17 leaving family, friends and colleagues in deep sadness.

His death was a huge loss to the entire scientific community and to the Pezcoller Foundation, for which he spent so much energy growing its international prestige, particularly with the Pezcoller Symposia. After many years of collaboration at the Symposia with Enrico Mihich, David Livingston took over as Chairman and for more than 10 years has consistently ensured cutting-edge topics and the best speakers. We’ll always miss him, his brilliant mind and incomparable scientific standing.

The end of a year is usually a time for review, but this year also marks the end of the five-year term of the Pezcoller Foundation Board of Directors. This review therefore takes on a broader meaning, in reporting the following main criteria that have inspired the activity for the past 5 years.

Increasing of the Foundation’s scientific prestige: Internationally, with a greater visibility at the AACR Annual Meeting and enhanced reputation and attendance to the Pezcoller Symposia. In Europe, with a stronger relationship with EACR, resulting in 3 awards and 3 Pezcoller Lectures at the EACR annual Congress. In Italy, with a strengthened cooperation with SIC, and more scholarships for young Italian researchers, and with NIBIT for a new Pezcoller Lecture at its annual meeting. Locally, with a greater involvement of Trento University, that includes the lectures of all the winners of international awards and two new PhD scholarships, and with the MUSE, for selected science communication events.

Raising the public awareness of the Foundation, as one’s own precious treasure. By moving to the Teatro Sociale the ceremony of the International Award, to encourage people’s participation. By strengthening of the collaboration with important economic components of the community (the Fondazione Caritro, our major supporter, the Federazione della Cooperazione Trentina and the Fondo Comune delle Case Rurali del Trentino). All these efforts actually resulted in a greater closeness of people to the Foundation and in greater donations to fund the Pezcoller Scholarships. Of great importance was the legacy of Marina Larcher Fogazzaro, both economically and for the possibility to offer to the city the Bortolazzi palace in its original magnificence, after the restructuring also funded by a generous contribution from of the Province Council. By setting up of a press office, to foster communication with social and media networks. Moreover, as science communication may generate support for scientific research, we launched new initiatives in this field, in collaboration with the University of Trento, the SISSA of Trieste, and the “I MERCOLEDI’ DELLA PEZCOLLER”, a series of webinars, with reputed Italian professionals.

Maturation and awareness of the Foundation’s role. Thanks to the consolidation of its prestige and economy, as mentioned above, the Foundation has matured the awareness of its own role and tasks. This has implied a number of adjustments to adapt the statute to changing times and needs, and to allow a different level of interaction with the main scientific and institutional players of our Community. The last five-years therefore, have represented an important period time for the Foundation which has been able to carry out all institutional activities at its best, even despite the difficulties and limitations caused by the outbreak of the Covid pandemic in 2020. I am deeply grateful to all the members of the Board of Directors, the staff and all the friends of the Pezcoller Foundation, for their commitment and continuous support in all activities in the fight against cancer, as indicated by our founder, Professor Alessio Pezcoller.

Enzo Galligioni

December 2021
Editorial
In memoriam of David Morse Livingston, MD, 29.03.1941 - 17.10.2021

The past October 17, 2021, we have been shocked by the terrible news of Dr. David Livingston’s sudden death, at the age of 80. This was a devastating news for all who knew and respected him and for the Pezcoller Foundation as well.

Winner of the Pezcoller - AACR International Award in 2017, Dr. Livingston had been a great friend of the Pezcoller Foundation and for more than 20 years had contributed to its growth and reputation in the scientific world of Cancer Research, particularly through the Pezcoller Symposia.

After having collaborated for many years with Enrico Mihich, the inventor of the Pezcoller Symposia, David Livingston took over as chairman, always ensuring, with the Scientific Standing Committee, cutting-edge topics and the best speakers.

As remembered by Dr. Laurie Glimcher, Director of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, Dr. Livingston was a towering figure in cancer research. He was a fixture at Dana-Farber and an internationally recognized cancer biologist and most recently was the Charles A. Dana Chair in Human Cancer Genetics and Emil Frei III Distinguished Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

A renowned expert on the molecular origins of breast and ovarian cancer, David Livingston’s research focused on genes that regulate cell growth, including the tumor suppressor genes Rb, p300/CBP, BRCA1 and BRCA2. His work has been the cornerstone of many studies of cancer susceptibility linked to BRCA function and mutations. By understanding the tumor suppressive properties of BRCA1 and BRCA2, David paved the way for studying novel approaches to breast and ovarian cancer prevention.

His emphasis on collaboration has been foundational to major discoveries in cancer research. In 2011 he helped launch the Bridge Project that links the cancer research efforts of MIT and DF/HCC to solve long-standing problems in the most intractable cancers, an effort that has grown with the support of the Commonwealth Foundation.

Among his many awards and achievements, he received the prestigious Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award in 2017, recognizing his significant contributions to translational cancer research. In 2019, he was recognized for his remarkable 45 years of service to Dana-Farber.

In the near half-century that he spent at the Institute, he served as a strong and influential mentor to many, including Nobel laureate William G. Kaelin Jr., MD.

The 2021 Pezcoller Foundation - AACR International Award for Extraordinary Achievement in Cancer Research

The 2021 Award was won by Dr. Hans Clevers, group leader at the Hubrecht Institute for Developmental Biology and Stem Cell Research and at the Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology (Utrecht), Professor at the University Utrecht and Oncode Investigator.

Motivation Clevers is being honored for a series of breakthrough discoveries that led to the development of mini-organs, now called organoids, and is widely considered one of the world’s leading experts on adult stem cell biology.

The ability to generate organoids from stem cells has been an essential first step towards the growth of the regenerative cancer medicine field. This unique cancer model system has also been instrumental in establishing new avenues of research involving the testing of novel anticancer therapeutics on tissues derived from tumors and cultured as organoids.

Early in his career, Clevers’ research group first studied intestine behavior in normal physiological states. During these studies, his group cloned the transcription factor TCF1, which has since been proven to be a vital component in the Wnt signaling pathway.

Next, Clevers demonstrated the link between Wnt signaling and adult stem cell biology by demonstrating that TCF4 gene disruption leads to the abolition of small intestine crypts, while targeted knockout of the TCF1 gene severely disables the stem-cell compartment of the thymus. Together with Bert Vogelstein, he also showed that mutations in the Wnt signaling pathway are capable of contributing to colon cancer onset and progression.

This finding has since propelled countless research efforts focused on the development of novel anticancer therapeutics that precisely target the Wnt signaling pathway. His pioneering research into stem cell biology, which led to the establishment of organoids as an essential model system for cancer research, has deepened our understanding of cancer’s origins and revolutionized cancer drug development to the great benefit of patients worldwide.

Dr. Clevers was chosen among 8 finalist nominees, by the Selection Committee chaired by Maria Rescigno, PhD (Humanitas University Milan), which gathered online on January 20, 2021.

The other members of the Committee were: Cedric Blanpain, MD, PhD, Fabrizio d’Adda di Fagagna, PhD, Karin E. de Visser, PhD, Ingo K. Neelinghoff, MD, Padmanee Sharma, MD, Marisol S. Soengas, PhD, Eleizeer Van Allen, MD and Anna M. Wu, PhD.

The Award to Dr. Clevers was formally announced at the AACR virtual annual Meeting, on Sunday, April 11, 2021, where he delivered his Award lecture.

The Pezcoller Foundation Journal - December 2021
Dear ladies and Gentlemen,
Some twenty years ago, I sailed with my two little sons Sander (7) and Max (5) on the IJsselmeer, formerly a large inner sea in the center of my country. We passed by a beautiful row of newly built windmills, painted in soft colors and shining in the sun. We were mesmerized by the rapidly rotating wings of the windmills. Suddenly Max asked: “When the mills stop turning, will our boat also stop?” Max believed that the rotating windmills were causing the wind to blow. This seemingly simple line of reasoning touches upon the core of science. Max is curious about the world around him, formulates a good question and defines an answer. One could call this answer of the 5-year old boy a hypothesis. Max’ hypothesis is a useful one, because it can be tested in a simple way. And, as you will realize, such critical testing will prove Max wrong: When the windmills are stopped - for instance for their maintenance-, it will turn out that the boats on the IJsselmeer will still be perfectly capable of continuing to sail.

The first part of this ‘question-and-answer’-game is deeply rooted in human nature. Even young kids like my son Max play this intuition game without any effort. But the next step which turns this game into science - the step of critical assessment, of deciding what is fact, and what is cause and consequence- turns out to be very hard. While intuition comes naturally to all of us, the critical assessment of fact, cause and consequence requires lots of education and - after that- a lifetime of effort, discipline and energy.

During the current COVID pandemic, we have witnessed an endless stream of highly creative thoughts, beliefs and opinions, that all are very believable, but that would evaporate when subjected to critical scientific assessment. But the originators of these highly creative thoughts, beliefs and opinions, are typically very reluctant to take the second, scientific step. A few words about the amazing history of Science. Science has only arisen once in the history of mankind. Not in ancient Egypt or China, not among the Mayans and Aztecs of South-America. The cradle of science was located in Athens. The ancient Greeks were no longer satisfied with their myths and religions and started to search for the laws of nature. Thus, the ancient Greeks have given us the mathematics of Euclides,
I was asked to tell you a bit about myself and the results of my life. As a 12-year-old, I started my study of biology at Utrecht University in 1975. I was immediately deeply disappointed. I felt Biology was not yet an experimental science, unlike chemistry and physics. We learned endless lists of Latin words and names, and nothing much else. I decided to also go to Medical school and graduated in both. The attraction of the medical profession was inevitable: Clear social status, transparent future and every day filled with lots of social interactions. And most importantly, every day I was given a number of problems and could solve at least some of these. This type of instant gratification does not exist in science, where one has to wait for months to obtain a result and then most of the time, the outcome is negative and one has to go back to the drawing table. Moments of gratification are rare and far in between.

I was offered a training position in pediatrics but was also advised to start with one year of research. In that year, I learned that my heart was in science, despite all its challenges. I quit the hospital and went to Harvard with my wife Eefke, to learn the tricks of a magical new field: DNA technology. Four years later we returned to Utrecht and I started the journey in my own little lab that has taken me to this stage here today. In my little lab, we asked a simple open question: How do white blood cells, the cells that fight virus infections, get produced in our body? I soon became head of the Immunology Department and learned how to combine managerial tasks with the science in my lab.

We found an interesting gene, but -while we were researching this gene, we didn’t learn much about the biology of the cells, but totally unexpectedly solved a key question in a very different scientific discipline: developmental biology, which studies how embryos create a complete body from one fertilized egg cell. And we also solved how colon cancer comes about. I can be totally honest: we were never looking for these discoveries, we just stumbled across these. This is called serendipity: discoveries that were made without looking for these.

Because our discoveries led us away from studying the immune system, I decided to leave the Utrecht University Hospital and moved my lab (grown to thirty young researchers) to the nearby Hubrecht Institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science. I became director of the institute and could almost completely devote myself to my lab. We decided to focus on colon cancer and on the ‘healthy counterpart’ of colon cancer cells: stem cells. It was known that all organs in our body harbor dedicated stem cells, whose sole task is the maintenance and repair of the organ in which they reside, throughout life. Every organ was believed to be maintained and repaired by a unique stem cell type. There could exist as many as a hundred stem cell types, but only a handful had already been discovered.

A British postdoc, Nick Barker (now running his own lab in Singapore) expertly applied the Step 1/Step 2 approach that I described earlier. He started this project in 2000. The first 4-5 tries yielded negative results, but in 2006 he suddenly stumbled across a molecular flag, named Lgr5, that allowed us to identify the stem cells of the gut and subsequently the stem cells of many other organs. Nick created mice in which these stem cells emit a green light. As you know, normal mice don’t emit light, so we could -for the first time- see stem cell in action in a living being. We soon realized -based on what we were seeing in these mice- that it should be possible to take the light-emitting stem cells out of these mice and culture them in the lab, in a plastic dish. I should mention at this point that it was generally believed around the world, that normal healthy cells cannot be cultured outside the body and that only cancer cells will grow in a plastic laboratory dish. Because of this dogma, no one in the lab wanted to give this a try. Then, Toshiro Sato, a Japanese gastroenterologist who was new to the lab said: “I will do it.” He went to the Step 1/Step 2 procedure. Starting from one light-emitting gut stem cell, he wanted to grow many stem cells in the dish, much like one can grow a plant from a seed. But much to our surprise, the stem cell did much more: Rather than producing more stem cells, it created a tiny version of a normal gut in the dish. Another case of serendipity: A breakthrough discovery we were never looking for. Toshi called the structures that he was growing ‘mini-guts’. We then rapidly realized that Toshi’s trick could be played for almost all other organs from mice and man, to grow mini-organs in a dish. The scientific name for these mini-organs-in-a-dish nowadays is ‘organoid’. The technology is simple. One simply needs to obtain a tiny piece of tissue of an organ of interest, put it in a petri dish of nutrients. Doctors take such samples routinely from patients and call these samples...
Symposium

32º PEZCOLLER SYMPOSIUM,
JUNE 21-22 2021

Aging and Cancer

After the forced interruption due to the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the first time in 31 years, on June 2021 we were able to organize the 32nd Pezcoller Symposium in a hybrid format. Participants and speakers were connected online from all over the world, whereas Italian moderators were able to join us in presence, in Trento. In spite of numerous difficulties, particularly the great differences in time zones (6 – 9 hours for more than half of the speakers and attendants), we had a huge increase of participants, 436 from many countries, including some from Asia and South America. This large participation was mainly attributed to the great relevance of the topic, the quality of the program (see Pezcoller Journal n° 55, June 2021) and the prestige of the speakers, already committed for 2020, who all kept their commitment for 2021. Obviously, the online mode also favored the participation of those who, due to distances could not have participated.

All presentations were followed as usual by an in-depth discussion. Notably, the Highlights of the symposium, collected with the collaboration of the CIBIO - University of Trento, were for the first time this year disseminated as an ESO (European School of Oncology) event, with the potential audience of about 8000 researchers.

Focus and Goals: Aging is a particularly prominent and effective promoter of human cancer development, but how it operates in this regard is largely unclear. Thus, given its particularly prominent role in clinical cancer development, the prime objective of the 2021 Pezcoller Symposium is to illuminate and decipher the nature of those key molecular and biological pathways that allow aging to associate with human cancer development. Importantly, while the abnormal phenotypic outcomes of this complex process are numerous, the detailed nature of the molecular mechanisms that readily connect them to carcinogenesis remains largely opaque. For example, accumulating genomic damage, along with other age-related biological forces, are widely believed to be major components of this complex clinical process. However, how these age-related outcomes are so commonly translated into clinical cancer development invites ever more cogent molecular explanation.
The upcoming Pezcoller Symposium will be held in June 13-14 2022, in Trento, Italy

To honor the memory of David Livingston and his long commitment to the Pezcoller Symposia, the Pezcoller Foundation and the Standing Committee have decided to establish the David Livingston Lecture, which will be given for all Symposia to come, beginning with the next symposium.

The preliminary program had already been defined by David Livingston, with the collaboration of the Standing Committee, before his sudden death, as follow:

**Title: What are the obstacles to cancer immunotherapy success?**

**Day 1**
- David Livingston Lecture, by William Kaelin, MD
- Sessions chaired by Stefano Piccolo, Alberto Bardelli, Massimo Loda, Maria Rescigno, Cathrin Brisken and Giannino Del Sal.

**Keynote Lecture 1**
- Session 1: New Immunotherapeutic Approaches
- Session 2: New Clinical Observations Involving Immunotherapy
- Session 3: Metabolism and Immunotherapeutics

**Day 2**
- Keynote Lecture 2
- Session 4: Innate Immunity
- Session 5: Bacteria and Cancer Immunity
- Session 6: Why do Immunotherapies fail

Poster Session and Maria Begnudelli Awards to the 3 best posters

In the forthcoming Symposium a range of insights into the aging vs tumorigenesis paradigm will be considered. Moreover, research findings extending from basic to clinical science will be presented and discussed. The objective of this meeting is to evaluate, critically, the latest evidence that links components of the aging process to cancer development and to clarify, where possible, how these forces accelerate tumorigenesis.

**Poster Session:** Among the 32 scientific abstracts received from young researchers, 24 were selected for poster presentation, by a selection committee chaired by Massimo Loda, MD.

The Maria Begnudelli prize for the 3 best posters, was awarded to:
- Eros di Giorgio, Dipartimento di Area Medica, Università di Udine, with the project “Identification of an epigenetic mechanism that controls genomic stability and epigenetic plasticity and protects from premature cellular senescence.”
- Claudia Enriquez, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milano, with the project “Castration-induced SPARC down-regulation in stromal cells drives neuroendocrine differentiation of prostate cancer.”
- Antonio Mulero Sanchez, The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, with the project “The SHERPA project: SHP2 and ERK inhibitors as a novel strategy for treating Pancreatic cancer” who had the chance of presenting their work with an oral presentation, in the last session of the Symposium.
Since 2012, the Pezcoller Foundation and the European Association for Cancer Research have collaborated in the establishment of the Pezcoller Foundation - EACR Cancer Researcher Award, which celebrates academic excellence and achievements in the field of cancer research.

In August 2020, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two organizations, committed to the continuation of the award, which was renamed the Pezcoller Foundation - EACR Translational Cancer Researcher Award, and was made annually from 2021 onwards.

Moreover, two more awards have been introduced to celebrate the achievements of (1) women working in cancer research and (2) very young cancer researchers, who have the potential to make significant contributions to future cancer research progress:

1. The Pezcoller - Marina Larcher Fogazzaro - EACR Women in Cancer Research Award (annual award)
2. The Pezcoller Foundation - EACR Rising Star Award (biennial award)

An Evaluation Panel is established each year, to consider nominations for each Award. Each Panel will be chaired by the current EACR President and will consist of two further representatives from each organization.

1. Translational Cancer Researcher Award: ANDREA ABLASSER

The 2021 Award Winner is Andrea Ablasser, from Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland. Professor Andrea Ablasser obtained her MD at the University of Munich. After her post-doc at the University of Bonn, she joined the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) as an Assistant Professor in 2014. In 2019, she was promoted to Associate Professor at EPFL.

Amongst several distinctions, Andrea Ablasser is recipient of the Coley Award, the Sanofi-Institut Pasteur Award, the National Latsis Prize, the ACTERIA Prize, and the Eppendorf Award, and she is an elected member of EMBO. She is the founding scientist of IFM Due, a biopharmaceutical company developing cGAS-STING antagonists for the treatment of inflammatory disorders.

Her research focuses on mechanisms of innate immunity. She contributed to deciphering how cells respond to intracellular DNA as a signal of infection via the so-called cGAS-STING pathway - a fundamental discovery, which paved the way for promising new immunotherapies. Her lab has a strong interest in understanding of mechanisms that control cGAS-STING activity and how these mechanisms contribute to distinct pathologies, including cancer.

Dr Andrea Ablasser is expected to come to Trento, possibly during the Spring 2022, for an event which is still under definition.

2. Women in Cancer Research Award: KAREN VOUSDEN

The Pezcoller-Marina Larcher Fogazzaro-EACR Women in Cancer Research Award was established in 2020 to celebrate the achievements of women working in cancer research.
In particular, this award was meant to recognize European scientists who have demonstrated academic excellence and achievements in the field of cancer research and who have, through leadership or by example, furthered the advancement of women in cancer research.

The first Award Winner is Karen Vousden, Professor at the Francis Crick Institute, UK. With a BSc in Genetics and Microbiology in 1978 and a PhD in Genetics in 1982 from the University of London, she has been Director of the Cancer Research Institute-UK Beatson and Head of Laboratory at the Francis Crick Institute in London since 2016. She is the author of approximately 260 scientific publications with over 49,000 citations. Prof. Vousden’s research focuses on the tumour suppressor protein p53, which plays an important role in cancer prevention. Her lab is interested in understanding the signals that induce p53 and the functions of p53 that contribute to its ability to prevent cancer progression. This work has also expanded to encompass an interest in cancer metabolism. Ultimately, the hope is to be able to find ways to translate this research for cancer therapy.

Prof. Vousden will come to Trento in March 8, 2022, to give a lecture for the local population on the role of metabolism and diet in cancer. We are happy to host her at MUSE for the International Women’s Day 2022.

3. Rising Star Award: SAM BEHJATI

The Pezcoller Foundation-EACR Rising Star Award celebrates a cancer researcher who has the potential to make significant contributions to future cancer research progress. The nominees must be within 1 to 4 years of having established their own laboratory in a European institution, and be the first and/or last authors on at least one paper published in an international peer-reviewed cancer research journal, arising from work carried out in their laboratory.

The first Award Winner is Sam Behjati, a Paediatrician Scientist and Group Leader working across Cellular Genetics and Cancer, at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK. His research sits at the interface of cancer genomics and single cell transcriptomics. Dr Behjati’s team uses cutting edge single cell techniques to understand normal human development and how normal development relates to disease. The focus is on understanding and quantifying the nature and origins of cancer cells, particularly childhood cancers. To do this, the research combines the study of somatic genomic changes, bulk and single cell transcriptomics, and mathematical modelling of data.

The Pezcoller Foundation-EACR Rising Star Award recognises a cancer research leader at the early stage of their career who has the potential to make significant contributions to cancer research and who have, through leadership or by example, furthered the advancement of women in cancer research.

The Pezcoller Foundation lecture at this year’s NIBIT meeting was given by Dr. Nicholas P. Restifo, introduced by the NIBIT President Mario Paolo Colombo. Dr Restifo is an American immunologist, physician and educator in cancer immunotherapy. Until July 2019, he was a tenured senior investigator by the NIBIT President Mario Paolo Colombo. Dr Restifo was given by Dr. Restifo the Pezcoller lecture at this year’s NIBIT meeting on “Cancer immunity and immunotherapy beyond the COVID-19” (October 14-15, 2021) that gathered top clinicians and scientists to discuss about novel concepts in cancer immunology such as trained immunity, cancer and immune metabolism, and virus-based therapeutic platforms in the intersection between cancer and COVID-19. Updates on cutting-edge therapies in hematologic malignancies and solid tumors like melanoma, lung, breast, prostate, head and neck and several others were also reported.

The Network Italiano per la Bioterapia dei Tumori (NIBIT), established in 2004, is a cooperative organization that collects and coordinates the activities of the Italian groups dealing with clinical and experimental biotherapy and cancer immunotherapy.

In 2019, the Pezcoller Foundation has started the collaboration with the NIBIT, through the “Pezcoller Lecture”. It has become a tradition in the scientific landscape of the NIBIT meeting, and showcases speakers, who have made groundbreaking contributions in the fields of cancer immunology and biotherapy.

The XIX NIBIT Meeting 2021, on “Cancer immunity and immunotherapy beyond the COVID-19” (October 14-15, 2021) was held virtually and it gathered top clinicians and scientists to discuss about novel concepts in cancer immunology such as trained immunity, cancer and immune metabolism, and virus-based therapeutic platforms in the intersection between cancer and COVID-19. Updates on cutting-edge therapies in hematologic malignancies and solid tumors like melanoma, lung, breast, prostate, head and neck and several others were also reported.

The Pezcoller Foundation’s support to Science Communication

Never as in this period, the entire society understood the importance of communicating science, in the right and accessible way, that could be helpful to laymen people. Science communication may generate support for scientific research or science education, and inform decision making, including political and ethical thinking. Science communication can be an effective mediator between the different groups and individuals that have a stake in public policy, industry, and civil society.

To this purpose, starting from 2021, the Pezcoller Foundation launched two new initiatives, in collaboration with Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), Trieste, and the University of Trento.

The first one, consists in the collaboration with the Master in Science Communication “Franco Prattico” (MCS) of SISSA (Trieste), which is an advanced course, aimed to train professional figures specialized in different fields of scientific communication including journalism, institutional communication, museology, publishing and event organization. MCS is first in Europe in terms of history and duration and the Pezcoller Foundation supports an annual scholarship, intended for the first student in the ranking of admission to MCS. The amount of €4000 covers the entire registration fee to MCS.

The second one, is based on a recent partnership established by the Pezcoller Foundation with Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento. The purpose, is to explore the theory and strategy behind impactful science communication and to provide an understanding of the role and significance of contemporary media, in shaping the public discourse about science. The Foundation will contribute to an annual fellowship, dedicated to a student willing to start the Master in Communication of Science and Innovation (SCICOMM) with this research project.

Besides these two new initiatives, between May and June 2021 we launched another one, “I MERCOLEDÌ DELLA PEZCOLLER”, a series of 7 free training meetings, with professionals who have been working for years in different fields of science communication: Roberta Villa, Giancarlo Sturloni, Ruggero Rollini, Beatrice Mautino, Daniela Ovadia, Elisabetta Tola and Luca De Fiore. Each of them shared their experience, telling how their work works.

More than 500 people coming from all over Italy registered to these events, which had an average of 90 people connected per event. The meetings, held on Zoom, have been recorded and are now available for free by sending an email to pezcoller@pezcoller.it.

In the organization of this series of meetings, we have been supported by Cristina Da Rold, a freelance science journalist and data-journalist, who covers health and epidemiology, social inequalities and gender gaps, mainly for Il Sole 24 Ore. Since 2015 she has been a communications consultant for the Italian Office of the World Health Organization.
Acknowledgements

We cannot close this issue of the Journal, without a heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to all the activities we have reported.
First of all, to the Foundation Board of Directors and the Statutory Auditors, for their competence and precious availability during these 5 years in charge. Their personal commitment, and often their professional skills and resources, greatly contributed to the mounting reputation of the Foundation.

Pezzoller Foundation Board of Directors and the Statutory Auditors (2016-2021)

We deeply thank the Fondazione CARITRO, our main sponsor, which from the very beginning supports and assists us in all initiatives.
Thanks also to the Fondo Comune delle Casse Rurali, always close to the territory and their communities, for the important support to the PhD Fellowships.
Thanks again to the cultural, academic, scientific, economic and social components of the Trentino Community, which together with Provincial Institutions and the Municipalities of Trento and Rovereto, are always very close to our initiatives.
Thanks to the main cancer societies: AACR, EACR, SIC, to the members of the Scientific Standing Committee and to all who support us in the recognition of excellence in cancer research.
Finally, I would like to say a very special thanks to all the citizens of Trentino, who consider the Pezcoller Foundation a precious legacy of our Community, for their warm participation to our initiatives and, in many cases, their financial support.

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Particularly thanks to those from which the Foundation received numerous donations in support of cancer research, and those whose memory the fellowships are entitled:

Angelo Foletto: educational activities of clinicians
Maria Luisa De Gaspari Ronc: biennial research fellowship
Bruna Scrinzi e Andrea Costa de Probizer: biennial research fellowships
Maria e Giuseppe Merz: biennial research fellowship
Ferruccio ed Elena Bernardi: biennial research fellowship
Angelo Mandato: biennial research fellowship
Alice Triangi: biennial research fellowship
Patrizia Coser: biennial research fellowship
Marina Larcher Fogazzaro: EACR Award and triennial PhD fellowship
Elsa Brigadoi: biennial research fellowship
Dr. Renzo Agostini: biennial research fellowship
Marcello Marchi e Luigina Andreazzi: biennial research fellowships