



The Pezcoller  
Foundation

# Journal



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# October 2010

We are proud of dedicating this number to the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pezcoller Foundation.

We will not include in this issue the publication of the Korsmeyer lecture which dr. Schlessinger, winner of 2010 Pezcoller-AACR Award, has given in Padua on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The lecture will be published in the next issue.

This year symposium "RNA Biology and Cancer" took place in Trento and the peculiar attractive cutting edge nature of the Pezcoller Symposia has been recognized and underlined by the large group of prestigious speakers who attended the meeting from all over the world. We have been very glad to give the 'Pezcoller Begnudelli Award' for the best posters to tree young deserving researchers: Cristina Migliore, IRCC Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment, University of Torino School of Medicine; Francesca Bersani Department of Anatomy, Pharmacology and Forensic Medicine and Center for Experimental Research and Medical Studies (CeRMS) University of Torino; Alessandra Bisio, Center for Integrative Biology, CIBIO, University of Trento.

We are presenting in the last pages the call for the 2011 Pezcoller Foundation-ECCO Recognition for Contribution to Oncology and the "focus and goals" of the next 23<sup>rd</sup> Pezcoller Symposium which will be held in Trento June 16-18, 2011 and will be entitled "Engineering in Cancer Research".

This issue of our Journal will cover the important event of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of

the Pezcoller Foundation that was celebrated on May 7, 2010 in the prestigious hall of the Buonconsiglio Castle at Trento.

The ceremony was attended by numerous authorities: the representatives of the Universities of Padua and Verona, the Directors of the Cancer Insitutes of Rome, Naples and Milan, as well as the 2009 Nobel Prize winner in medicine and AACR President, Prof. Elizabeth Blackburn, together with the AACR CEO Prof. Marge Foti, Prof. Schlessinger and Mrs. Korsmeyer.

In my speech, I recall the milestones of the Foundation's history that I have lived through since its very beginning.

My contribution is reported below followed by Prof. Enrico Mihich's report on the scientific events that have been organised by the Foundation over the past three decades. Prof. Mihich has been one of the major consultants for and organizer of the 22 Pezcoller Symposia.

Gios Bernardi MD  
President of the Pezcoller Foundation

Picture on front page:  
Professor Alessio Pezcoller

# Speech delivered by President Gios Bernardi on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pezcoller Foundation



Gios Bernardi  
President of the Pezcoller Foundation

Dear Colleagues and Friends,  
Let me celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pezcoller Foundation by telling you about this long and exciting season.

On February 7, 1980 Prof. Alessio Pezcoller signed the deed that established his Foundation with the aim of promoting scientific research and fight against the diseases that affect mankind. Subsequently, the Founder agreed to shift the focus to the fight against cancer.

The emotion I feel at being here today to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pezcoller Foundation is too great to hide: the Foundation was set up thanks to the foresight,

vision and generosity of its founder and over the years has spawned a large variety of initiatives, encouraged and sponsored many young researchers, awarded prizes to numerous outstanding scientists and fostered significant advances in cancer research thereby contributing to the international scientific community's fight against a disease that has ruined the lives of many families. A disease that is still considered a serious condition and whose incidence is constantly growing, even though today it can be frequently treated and even cured.

My feelings today arise from the fact that I've been part of the founder's adventure since





the very beginning and have shared with him and others the responsibility of leading the Foundation's activity through the years. Being a medical doctor myself, this has given me the opportunity to follow the extraordinary progress made in the fight against cancer from a unique vantage point.

My task today is to touch briefly upon the milestones of the Foundation's history and its protagonists, starting with the Founder. Pezcoller's idea of establishing a Foundation took shape in the '70s through numerous meetings and frequent exchanges of opinion mainly with the President of the bank Cassa di Risparmio di Trento e Rovereto. The original

Statute of the Foundation was subsequently amended not to mistake the Foundation with the financial institute and to confirm the Cassa di Risparmio's support to the Pezcoller Foundation over the years.

The President of the Italian Republic chartered the Foundation on March 13, 1986 and in August of the same year the first Board of Directors took office. The Board was made by the Honorary President, Prof Pezcoller, the Chairman and ten directors who represented the Cassa di Risparmio, the central and local government, the municipalities of Trento and Rovereto and the local Association of Physicians.

The Foundation's original goal was to establish an important international award for cancer research which required a qualified Selection Committee. Needless to say, setting up such a Committee turned out to be a particularly daunting task because of Trento's peripheral geographical location and the marginal role it played on the Italian scientific scene. After several fruitless attempts to involve Institutes with an international standing, only Prof. Umberto Veronesi accepted to help us organize an international award with the organizational support of the European School of Oncology and set up a Scientific Committee chaired by him. With the financial resources available though, the Foundation could only afford the first edition of the international award. At that time, the important strategic decision was made by two members of the Steering Committee, Prof. Paolo Schlechter and myself, to focus on basic cancer research, notably genetics and molecular biology rather than clinical research (medical and surgical) that in those days accounted for most of cancer research studies. I think it's safe to say the choice was heavily criticised and opposed by the local and national scientific community, but proved to be extremely foresighted, as most of the progress in the fight against cancer has been and is still made in this field. In 1988 Professor Vincent De Vita of the NCI National Cancer Institute received the first International Award. By sheer coincidence, that year professor Enrico Mihich from Roswell Park, Buffalo was a member of the Scientific Committee led by Professor Veronesi. Prof. Mihich had

been at college with Paolo Schlechter and the friendship between two who shared the Foundation's goals and strategies, enabled us to set up relations with the international scientific community that proved essential for the Pezcoller Foundation to be accepted as a fully recognized member.

We also owe Prof. Mihich the close cooperation with AACR (for which Prof. Mihich had served as President) and the idea to start the series of the Pezcoller Symposia in 1989 that soon became an important indicator of progress in cancer research. Today the Symposia are organised thanks to the financial support of the provincial government of Trento: every year they bring together hundreds of investigators from all over the world who can meet for three days and exchange ideas with leading cancer experts.

In those days, the capital structure of the Foundation had to be revisited to generate more income and the cashflow that was required to further extend the Foundation's activity.

In 1993, at the age of 97, Professor Pezcoller - who had been able to attend the first Award ceremonies - passed away and was buried in the Town Famedio where the most prominent people of Trento rest.

In the following years, thanks to the valuable contribution of the European School of Oncology of Milan, the Award was given to Maurice Tubiana, Bert Vogelstein and in 1995 to Paul Maxime Nurse from London who in 2001 received the Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Prof. Mihich's unwavering support led to a collaboration agreement with AACR that was

signed in San Diego by the President Donald S. Coffey in 1997 and emended and renewed in 2005.

Consequently, in 1997, the International Award consisting of a grant of € 75.000 became the "Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award for Cancer Research": every year a Scientific Committee of eight members (four appointed by AACR and four by the Pezcoller Foundation) selects a winner who will receive the Award during an official ceremony in Trento and is invited to give an Award lecture at AACR Annual Meeting.

This International Award has now reached its thirteen edition and it can boast another two Nobel prize winners: Mario Capecchi in 2007 and Elizabeth Blackburn in 2009 who has honored us with her friendship and her presence here today. We can proudly say that this is a clear recognition of the severity of our selection process as well as our commitment. Over the years, the International Award has been given to: Anthony Pawson; Carlo Croce; Charles Sherr; Carl-Henrik Heldin; Stanley Korsmeyer who prematurely passed away, leaving a great void in the international scientific community; Lewis Cantley; Tadatsugu Taniguchi; Mina Bissell; Axel Ullrich; Napoleone Ferrara and this year, Joseph Schlessinger. I do hope and trust that some of them will one day replicate the goal of Nurse, Capecchi and Elizabeth Blackburn, to reach the Nobel Prize. In 1994 another award was established to honor scientists who have devoted their lives to the fight against cancer. This initiative was made possible by ESO's support and currently, by the organizational contribution of the

European CanCer Organisation-ECCO. The Pecoller-ECCO Recognition for Contribution to Oncology consisting of a grant of € 30.000 is awarded every two years in Rovereto (Trento) and the winner is invited to present a lecture at ECCO European Conference.

Over the years Franco Cavalli; Guido Venosta; Henry Lynch; Jean-Claude Horiot; Umberto Veronesi; Hans-Jorg Senn; Renè Bernards; Luigi Chieco Bianchi and Francoise Meunier have received this recognition as an expression of our gratitude for their long-standing commitment.

In the intervening years we received two considerable bequests by Prof. Maria Luisa De Gaspari-Ronc in 2004 and Ferruccio and Elena Bernardi (brother and sister) in 2006 that enabled us to extend our activity further, though within the scope of our Statutory goals. The Pezcoller-Ronc scholarship was created to finance continuing medical education in oncology for young researchers from Trento while the Pezcoller-Bernardi grant of € 40.000 was established in memory of Ferruccio and Elena to sponsor a two-year research project to be carried out by a young Italian researcher at an Italian research Institute. The latter is promoted with the organizational support of the Italian Cancer Society - SIC and awarded during its Annual Meeting.

There are several other Pezcoller scholarships that are awarded to early-career scientists to enable them to attend the conferences organised by AACR; ECCO (Conference and workshop in Flims); European Association on Cancer Research; Mediterranean Task Force for Cancer Control as well as our





Symposia. Besides helping concretely many young oncologists, the Pezcoller scholarships contribute to our Foundation's visibility in the US and Europe, from Norway to the Mediterranean. Additionally, since 2009 with the financial support of the Cassa di Risparmio Foundation we have been awarding a grant of € 40.000 to a two-year cancer research project to be carried out at a Research Institute in Trento by a young researcher who either resides in Trento or is ready to move to Trento for two years.

Finally, two-day seminars are organised regularly to provide an update to local professionals on topics mainly relating to clinical oncology.

The Pezcoller Foundation Journal is a biannual publication reporting on the Foundation's

international initiatives, including the winner's award lecture.

Our website is constantly updated: you can visit it at [www.pezcoller.it](http://www.pezcoller.it)

At the end of this brief historical overview let me say a few words to honor Prof. Alessio Pezcoller's memory and express our deepest gratitude.

Prof. Alessio Pezcoller was born in Rovereto in 1896: his mother was from Glorenza in the Venosta Valley and his father from the Badia Valley. Alessio's father died when he was still a young boy and his family lost all its assets during World War One. Despite economic hardship he managed to study in Austria. After Trentino was annexed to Italy he graduated brilliantly at the University of Florence.

He studied and worked with Prof. Mario Donati at the Clinica Chirurgica Universitaria at Milan until 1937 when Prof. Donati was forced to leave Italy by the racial laws enacted by the fascists.

Pezcoller abandoned his academic career and became the Head of the surgical department at the Trento Hospital where he showed his great surgical skills in several areas such as abdominal surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, orthopaedics and trauma -as this was what surgery required surgeons to do in those days- with particular attention to tumors that were almost exclusively treated surgically.

He devoted his whole life to his work and studies, carried out thousands of surgeries and saved scrupulously: none of us, his young assistants, could imagine the noble use such savings were destined to. He never had a family of his own; he used to work round the clock, without breaks, day and night at the hospital, conducting a monastic life 'till retirement in 1966.

He then devoted himself to his idea of a Foundation and carefully followed its first years of activity until he died in 1993. Prof. Pezcoller looked thoughtful and detached; he was extremely serious but curious and attentive. He was rarely familiar with his patients, their relatives or his co-workers and colleagues but was always ready to give a helping hand. He was a very reserved man. He was held in high esteem by many but had only few intimate friends. And I hope and believe that our continuing and strong commitment is a recognition - unfortunately belated - of his scientific, social

and human contribution.

But coming to my conclusions, I would also like to recall all those who have contributed to the Foundation's life and are no longer with us: Fausto Gobbi, President of the Cassa di Risparmio, who supported the Founder's project since the very beginning; Paolo Schlechter, a dear friend of mine and a prominent internist, who was the Director of the internal medicine department at our hospital; Aimone Sordo, who served two mandates as President of the Foundation and contributed several important decisions that improved the Foundation's economics. So much for the past of our Foundation. But I cannot forget about the present, particularly the institutions that generously sponsor our activity, i.e. the Foundation of the Cassa di Risparmio di Trento e Rovereto; the Province of Trento and the municipalities of Trento and Rovereto.

Beside their essential support, I am glad I can count also on the support of the Board of Directors, namely the Vice President Pietro Monti; directors Maurizio Agostini, Antonello Briosi, Mario Cristofolini, Giustiniano de Pretis, Enzo Galligioni, Lucio Luciani, Giovanni Spagnoli, Paolo Stefanelli and Fulvio Zuelli; Statutory Auditors Pier Alberto Trovatielli, Donato Spina and Mario Zane, and last but not least our Secretariat staff: Giorgio Pederzoli, Luciana de Pretis and Federica Mandato. Thank you all for your attention.



# Progress in oncological research in the 30 years of activity of the Pezcoller Foundation

Enrico Mihich  
Dana - Farber Cancer Institute



It is a privilege for me to participate in the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pezcoller Foundation and I wish to thank President Bernardi for his invitation to make this presentation.

The participation of the Foundation to progress in oncology has been effected through 16 awards that have recognized the outstanding work of international scientists, as well as through 21 annual symposia which have always been focused on cutting edge aspects of cancer research.

Genes are at the basis of the cellular functions and are expressed and transcribed on RNA and this transcription is controlled by many factors; then RNA translates the information received for the production of proteins. Gene transcription has been repeatedly

discussed in several symposia: in 1990 by Slamon and Groner for mammary cancer; in 1993 by Vogelstein, who was recognized by the award of the Pezcoller Award for having demonstrated how different genes are sequentially expressed during the development of colon cancer. In 1991, a whole symposium was focused on tumor suppressor genes. Genes and their expression were discussed in 1995 by Comoglio, in 1998 by Ponder, in 2001 and 2003 by Stratton; in 1998 a whole symposium was dedicated to this topic.

In the 1991 symposium, Eisenman announced, before its publication, the discovery of factors Bax and Max, factors which have great importance for the cell to reach the decision to live or die. In 1993, Taniguchi discussed transcription factors for the genes



of interferon and in 2006, he received the Pezcoller-AACR Award for the discovery of these factors.

The expression of genes is also influenced by epigenetic mechanisms through modifications of structures interacting with DNA. In 2003, these mechanisms were discussed by Jones and Baylin who emphasized the fact that they also represent targets useful for the development of new antitumor therapies.

Methodologies for the identification of genetic profiles were discussed in 1997, 2001, and 2003. It is important to identify genetic profiles in the tumor of a patient because this allows to design on its basis optimal treatments for that patient. We hope to be able to do this in the future for an always increasing number of different types of tumors.

In 2003, Capecchi was awarded the Pezcoller-AACR Award, and in 2007 the Nobel Prize for having developed a way to eliminate a gene and, consequently, be able to demonstrate its function.

Micro RNAs, small non-coding RNA molecules, control, in part, the translation of RNA information. This is a field to which Carlo Croce has contributed in a major way and which will be discussed in the Symposium of 2010.

Starting from membrane or internal receptors, chains of proteins transfer information to the site of action. This process is called signal transduction and can be inhibited at different levels with consequent inhibition downstream, inhibition which may cause cell damage. In 1998, Pawson received the Pezcoller-AACR

Award for his studies in this field. In 1999, Lydon described the inhibition by Gleevec (Imatinib) of an enzyme along a particular signal transduction pathway. Gleevec is very active against chronic myelocytic leukemia and the intestinal tumor GIST. In the Symposium of 2000, McCormick, Dalla Favera, and Taniguchi discussed the communications around different pathways of signal transduction (the so-called cross talk); these communications are important because they can bypass a blockage along a single pathway and thus abolish its potential therapeutic effect. In 2002, Heldin, and in 2005, Cantley received the Pezcoller-AACR Award because of their work on signal transduction.

The telomerases have been discovered by Blackburn, here present, who received the Pezcoller-AACR Award in 2001 and the Nobel Prize in 2009. When these enzymes are missing or inhibited at each cell division, DNA becomes shorter until the cell can no longer survive. The inhibition of telomerases in tumor cells was discussed in 1996 by Cooke, and in 2000 by DePinho.

A programmed process leads to the death of a cell by apoptosis. In 1993, a whole symposium was dedicated to apoptosis. Bcl2 antagonizes apoptosis and was discussed in 1994 by Croce; in 1999 he received the Pezcoller-AACR Award for his discoveries in this field. The mechanisms of control of apoptosis were discussed by Reed in 1997, by Lowe in 1999, and by the late Korsmeyer in 2004, when he received the Pezcoller-AACR Award. As discussed by Danial in 2009, glucose and other sources of energy have an important effect on apoptosis.



In the symposium of 1991, the cell cycle, which is at the basis of cell division, was discussed by Reed, Russell, and Nurse. Nurse was the first to describe the cycle and received, in 1995, the Pezcoller Prize and, in 2001, the Nobel Prize. The mechanisms of control of the cycle were discussed by Kastan in 1993, and by others in 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2000; in 2000, Sherr received the Pezcoller-AACR Award for his work in this area. In the microenvironment of the tumor cells, there are the blood vessels which provide nutrients and oxygen to the cells and all the factors and cells of the systems of defense of the organism. In 1990, Bissell discussed the function of the extracellular matrix in modifying the expression of mammary genes; in 2007, she received the Pezcoller-AACR Award in recognition of her important and pioneering work on tumor microenvironment. In 1992, a whole symposium was dedicated to the integrins, which are important factors involved in the contacts among cells. Discussions of tumor immunity were carried out in the symposia of 1992, 1995, 1997, 1999, and 2002. Among others, Allison discussed the mechanisms of stimulation of the immune cells. Forni discussed immunity against mammary tumors. Finn introduced mucin as a basis of antitumor vaccines. Parmiani focused on vaccination of melanoma; Mantovani and Ferrone discussed the relationships between inflammation and cancer. The regulation of blood vessels was discussed by Jain and others in 1997, and by Ferrara in 2006, 2008 and 2009. In 2009, Ferrara received the Pezcoller-AACR Award for his

fundamental studies in this field which led to the development of the inhibitor Avastin, a drug now in clinical trial.

The Pezcoller Foundation has always been sensitive to the importance of benefitting, as fast as possible, the cancer patient. Indeed, in 1988, the first Pezcoller Award was given to DeVita for having developed a curative treatment of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In 1989, the first symposium was dedicated to resistance to drugs. The symposium of 1990 was dedicated to mammary tumors; that of 1994, to leukemias including the curative treatment of promyelocytic leukemias. Treatments with new so-called target drugs were discussed in 2003, and the importance of patient selection based on the molecular profile of his/her tumor was stressed in 2007. The clinical application of Avastin was discussed in 2008. The rational development of new drugs was the motivation of the Pezcoller-AACR Award to Ullrich in 2008, and to Schlessinger in 2010.

Because of time limitations, I had to omit facts and scientists, but I hope that what I told you demonstrates how much the Foundation has punctuated the progress of oncological science in these last 30 years.

Thank you.

# 2011 Pezcoller Foundation-ECCO Recognition for Contribution to Oncology

## Call for Nominations

ECCO – the European Cancer Organisation and the Pezcoller Foundation are pleased to announce the **Call for Nominations for the 2011 Pezcoller Foundation-ECCO Recognition for Contribution to Oncology**.

For 2011, in collaboration with ECCO – The European Cancer Organisation, the Pezcoller Foundation-ECCO Recognition for Contribution to Oncology will be awarded to a single individual for his/her professional life dedication to the improvement of cancer treatment, care and research. The award is open to all professions and specialties within the oncology field.

Nominations will be accepted for candidates irrespective of race, gender or nationality. Institutions, groups or associations are not eligible. Self-nominations will not be considered. Candidates must be nominated on the official form by one who is, or has been, affiliated with a university or medical institution.

A curriculum vitae and description of the candidate's professional contribution to the field of oncology should be included with the application form.

Nominators are requested to keep their nomination confidential and to refrain from informing the nominee. The awardee will be selected by an International Committee appointed by the ECCO President with the agreement of the Council of the Pezcoller Foundation. The decision concerning the 2011 winner will be taken in April 2011.

The award consists of a prize of 30,000 EUR and a commemorative plaque. The Award Ceremonies will be held in Rovereto (Italy), on 09 September 2011 and in Stockholm, during the 16th ECCO – 36th ESMO Multidisciplinary Cancer Congress as a Plenary Lecture to be delivered during the Presidential Session of Sunday 25 September 2011.

## Award Committee

Michael Baumann (DE), President of ECCO - Chair  
Gios Bernardi (IT), President of the Pezcoller Foundation  
Irving Taylor (UK), Professor of Surgery, Director of Medical Studies and Vice Dean, UCL Medical School, University College London

Sara Faithful (UK), Professor of Cancer Nursing Practice, European Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Surrey

Marco Pierotti (IT), Professor of Molecular Genetics of Tumours, Scientific Director of Istituto Nazionale Tumori Milano, President OEI

Paola Zanovello (IT), Professor of immunology at Department of Oncology and Surgery University of Padova

Ex-officio members:

Michel Ballieu (BE), Chief Executive Officer of ECCO  
Alberto Costa (IT), Director of ESO

## About the Pezcoller Foundation

The Pezcoller Foundation was established in 1980 through a most generous donation from Professor Alessio Pezcoller, a dedicated Italian surgeon, who devoted his life to his profession. Professor Pezcoller not only made important contributions to medicine but through his generosity and foresight, provided his lifetime's savings for others to do likewise.

Formerly, until 1997, the Pezcoller Foundation presented an award in collaboration with the European School of Oncology (ESO). The Pezcoller Foundation-ECCO Recognition for Contribution to Oncology builds on this tradition.

## More Information:

For more information about the nomination process and to submit a completed form and support documentation please contact Carine Lecoq: ECCO – the European Cancer Organisation, Avenue E. Mounier, 83, B-1200 Brussels, Tel: +32 2 775 29 31, Fax: +32 2 775 02 00, Email: carine.lecoq@ecco-organ.org

Nomination Forms can be downloaded at: [www.ecco-organ.org](http://www.ecco-organ.org) (select 'Education' > 'Awards') and must be completed and received by **31 January 2011**.



Fondazione  
Pezcoller



EUROPEAN  
CANCER  
ORGANISATION

## 2011 Pezcoller Symposium

# Engineering in Cancer Research

June 16-18, 2011 - Trento, Italy

The next Pezcoller Symposium entitled "Engineering in Cancer Research" will be held in Trento on June 16-18, 2011. The Symposium will be focused on the applications of various forms of engineering science to the study of single cancer cells and intact tumors, alike. Included will be considerations of the application of nanotechnology, novel materials, intravital microscopy and new imaging methodologies, microfluidics, in vivo

sensing, and other new engineering driven modalities to cancer science and cancer therapeutics.

Opportunities will be offered to present posters in the areas discussed at the symposium. For scientific questions contact Dr. David Livingston (david\_livingston@dfci.harvard.edu), for submission of posters and other general questions contact Dr. Enrico Mihich, (Enrico\_mihich@dfci.harvard.edu). for local arrangements contact the Pezcoller Foundation (pezcoller@pezcoller.it).

## Pezcoller Foundation-AACR

# Call for 2012 International Award for Cancer Research

The prestigious Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award for Cancer Research was established in 1997 to annually recognize a scientist:

- who has made a major scientific discovery in basic cancer research or who has made significant contributions to translational cancer research;
- who continues to be active in cancer research and has a record of recent, noteworthy publications;

- whose ongoing work holds promise for continued substantive contributions to progress in the field of cancer.

The Award is intended to honor an individual scientist. However, more than one scientist may be co-nominated and selected to share the Award when their investigations are closely related in subject matter and have resulted in work that is worthy of the Award. In the rare event that there are dual winners of the Award,



the cash award will be shared equally between them, and the AACR Executive Committee will determine which of the two co-recipients will present the Pezcoller-AACR Award Lecture at the AACR Annual Meeting.

Candidates for the Award will be considered by a prestigious international Selection Committee of renowned cancer leaders appointed by the President of the AACR and the Council of the Pezcoller Foundation. The Committee will consider all nominations as they have been submitted; the Committee may not combine submitted nominations, add a new candidate to a submitted nomination, or otherwise make alterations to the submitted nominations. After careful deliberations by the Committee, its recommendations will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the AACR and the Council of the Pezcoller Foundation for final consideration and determination.

Selection of the Award winner will be made on the basis of the candidate's scientific accomplishments. No regard will be given to race, gender, nationality, or religious or political view.

The Pezcoller Foundation was established in 1980 by Professor Alessio Pezcoller, a dedicated Italian surgeon who made important contributions to medicine during his career and who, through his foresight, vision and generous gift in support of the formation of the Foundation, stimulated others to make significant advances in cancer research. Previously the Pezcoller Foundation, gave a major biennial award for outstanding contributions to cancer and cancer-related biomedical science, in collaboration with the ESO-European School of Oncology.

The American Association for Cancer

Research (AACR) was founded in 1907 by eleven physicians and scientists dedicated to the conquest of cancer and now has over 25,000 laboratory, translational, clinical and epidemiological scientists engaged in all areas of cancer research in the United States and in more than 60 other countries around the world. The AACR is dedicated to its mission of preventing and curing cancer through the communication of important scientific results in a variety of forums including publications, meetings and training and educational programs. Because of the commitment of the Pezcoller Foundation and the AACR to scientific excellence in cancer research, these organizations are now collaborating annually on the presentation of the Award. This will strengthen international collaborations and will be a catalyst for advancements in cancer research internationally.

The winner of the Pezcoller Foundation-AACR International Award for Cancer Research will give an award lecture during the AACR Annual Meeting (April 2012), and the memorial Korsmeyer lecture at the VIMM in Padua and will receive the award in a ceremony at the Foundation's headquarters in Trento, Italy (May, 2012). The award consists of a prize of € 75,000 and a commemorative plaque.

#### **Nomination Deadline: September, 2011**

Questions about the nomination process: Monique P. Eversley, Program Coordinator, Scientific Achievement Awards - American Association for Cancer Research, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 615 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404 - Tel. +1 (267) 646-0576; e-mail: monique.eversley@aacr.org - www.aacr.org

*Save the date!*

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Pezcoller Symposium

June 16 - 18, 2011  
Trento, Italy

## Engineering in Cancer Research

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Foundation

## Journal

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