

About IFOM

IFOM (FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology), Milan, established in 2000, is a state-of-the-art Institute of basic cancer science. The birth of the Institute was driven by scientists in the Experimental Oncology Department of the European Institute of Oncology, with the help of the University of Milano, The National Tumor Institute, The Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research and the San Raffaele Institute joined in the discussions and the organization. The Italian Foundation for Cancer Research, FIRC, provided the financial basis for the installation and for the establishment of common technical facilities that would be exploited not only by IFOM scientists but also by others in the Milano area. The Regione Lombardia was also very generous in its financial support.

The first Director was Prof. Pier Paolo Di Fiore who was then followed in 2009 by Prof. Marco Foiani. Today, IFOM is divided in **two main sections: Cell Biology of Cancer and Cancer Genome Dynamics**. The common objective is the identification of the molecular mechanisms driving cancer and cancer cell properties. The Cell Biology section includes groups interested in endocytosis, cytoskeleton, cell migration, signaling whereas the Cancer Genome Dynamics section includes DNA damage, DNA repair, Chromatin, Nuclear structure, Cell Cycle, Nuclear Signaling. Despite this differentiation, the two sections are largely overlapping in interests.

IFOM provides its scientists a large array of common technological facilities that include Imaging, Genome sequencing platforms including diagnostic, Bio-informatics, cell culture, animal husbandry, model system facilities (Zebra-fish, Xenopus Laevis, Yeast, Planaria), protein sequencing, protein biochemistry and Antibody production.

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