

Cover legend: **Antonio Giordano**; a member of The Editorial Academy of
The International Journal of Oncology



An internationally recognized researcher specializing in the genetics of cancer and gene therapy, Antonio Giordano, M.D., Ph.D., 45, is the President and Chairman of the Board of the Sbarro Health Research Organization (www.shro.org), Director of the Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine and Director of the Center of Biotechnology at Temple University's College of Science and Technology. Dr Giordano also serves as the Director of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Human Health Foundation (HHF), an Italian charity for basic medical research that he founded with the President of the Banca Popolare di Spoleto, Giovannino Antonini. Dr Giordano is a professor at Temple University and 'Chiara fama' professor in Pathology at the University of Siena in Siena, Italy.

At 26, while a post-doctoral fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, Dr Giordano discovered the protein cyclin A, a substance that regulates growth in the cell cycle. At Temple University, he discovered Rb2/p130, a tumor suppressor gene which has since been found to be active in lung, endometrial, brain, breast, liver and ovarian cancers, and CDK9 and CDK10, genetic substances that must be activated to guarantee proper progression through the cell cycle. Research has subsequently shown that CDK9 also plays a critical role in cell differentiation, particularly in muscles, HIV transcription, and the inception of tumors.

In 1993, while a professor at Thomas Jefferson University, Dr Giordano founded the Sbarro Institute with the generous financial contributions of Mario Sbarro, president of Sbarro restaurants. In 2002, when Dr Giordano moved to Temple University, the Institute negotiated an alliance with Temple to form SHRO, which presently supports the work of the

Sbarro Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine at Temple and an SHRO-affiliated laboratory at the University of Siena in Siena, Italy.

SHRO is dedicated to supporting scientific research aimed at finding cures for cancer, cardiovascular and other diseases by identifying their underlying molecular mechanisms. Over 200 SHRO molecular biologists, geneticists, physicists, and chemists are currently working to develop new methods to understand, diagnose and cure disease. Areas of interest include investigation of antimicrobial peptides that may lead to new drugs to fight antibiotic resistant infections; research into the molecular workings that impede treatments for estrogen-based breast cancer; examinations on how obesity might affect the response of breast cancer patients to chemo- and hormonal therapies, and how diet might modulate the expression of cancer-related genes.

A native of Naples, Italy, Dr Giordano earned his medical degree summa cum laude from the University of Naples and his doctorate in Pathology summa cum laude from the University of Trieste Medical School. He was a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at New York Medical College in Valhalla (N.Y.) as well as a post-doctoral fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (N.Y.).

Since 1992, Dr Giordano's work in gene therapies and diagnostics have been awarded twenty patents. He has published 310 papers on his work in the fields of cell cycles, gene therapy and the genetics of cancer and serves on a number of editorial boards including Cancer Therapy, Current Cancer Therapy Reviews, International Journal of Oncology, The Open Cancer Journal, and The Women's Oncology Review (Editor-USA). In the past ten years he has been an invited lecturer at over 150 scientific meetings held within the U.S. and abroad. His work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, as well as by individual and program project grants from SHRO. He is most recently co-editor of an oncology textbook entitled, *Molecular Pathology of Gynecologic Cancer (Current Clinical Oncology)* (Humana) published in 2007.

Dr Giordano is a member of the American Association for Cancer Research, American Association for the Advancement of Science, The New York Academy of Science, International Society for the Study of Comparative Oncology, Società Italiana Tumori, Gruppo Oncologico dell' Italia Meridionale, Italian Society of Histochemistry, and the Mediterrean Oncology Group.