

The EACR Young Cancer Researcher Award

The European Association for Cancer Research confers the EACR Young Cancer Researcher Award in recognition of an outstanding contribution in the field of fundamental research in cancer. This award is presented on an annual basis to a young member of the Association.

**On the occasion of ECCO15 34ESMO
the award will be presented to
Fabrizio d'Adda di Fagagna**

Fabrizio d'Adda di Fagagna obtained his PhD in Trieste (Italy) from the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) working on HIV-1 transcription. He then moved to Cambridge (UK) to study the DNA damage response (DDR) in the group of Prof. Steve Jackson at the Gurdon Institute as a Research Associate. Here, he identified a novel family of prokaryotic orthologues of mammalian DNA repair factors and studied the impact of apoptosis on DDR. In addition, in this period his most important contributions were in the field of telomere biology. He revealed a role of DDR factors in telomere homeostasis in vivo in human cells and mice and demonstrated that replicative senescence induced by telomere shortening is the consequence of DDR activation.

In 2003 he moved to the FIRC Institute of Molecular Oncology Foundation (IFOM) where he presently holds a position as tenured Principal Investigator. Here he studies the impact of oncogene activation in normal human cells. Together with his group he found that oncogenes alter the DNA replication process and in this way they cause DNA damage and consequent DDR activation and cellular senescence, both in vitro and in vivo. These results highlight the fact that oncogene activation is intrinsically a genotoxic event and DDR genes play tumor suppressive functions by imposing cellular senescence.

His lab presently is broadly focused on the molecular bases of cellular senescence and its control in different contexts associated with tumor formation and ageing.