

# **THE 50<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF ITALIAN CANCER SOCIETY**

**“Towards novel anticancer therapeutical targets”**

**Naples, 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Italian Cancer Society (SIC) whose scientific coordinator was Dr. Alfredo Budillon, from the Istituto Nazionale Tumori G. Pascale of Naples, was held in Naples on October 6-9 2008 with the significant title: “Towards novel anticancer therapeutical targets”.

The meeting assembled an outstanding panel of speakers and a scientific programme that featured basic, translational and clinical cancer research with over 300 scientists coming from all over Italy to attend the scientific session.

The session mainly focused on the definition of mechanism of cancer disease and on multidisciplinary approaches for the development of novel anticancer therapeutical approaches as well as new predictive, prognostic and diagnostic markers.

The inaugural session was on oncogenic receptors with invited speakers including Yosef Yarden, who presented a talk on “EGFR and HER2: an oncogenic alliance and therapeutic interceptors”, Paolo Comoglio who presented updates on the MET targeting therapy and PierPaolo Di Fiore presenting data on oncogenes Notch and Numb.

Several other plenary sessions were devoted to crucial topics such as epigenetics, tumours immunology, “omics” approaches, tumour microenvironment and innovative cancer treatments. In addition, the controversial and highly debated topics of cancer stem cells and molecular cancer drugs-induced toxicity, were discussed in the joint meeting sessions with the Italian Association of Cell Culture (AICC) and the Italian Association of Medical Oncology (AIOM), respectively.

A particular session was also dedicated to Prof. Giorgio Prodi, founder of the first Cancer Institute in Italy, with two Plenary Lectures by Gabriella Zupi and Ada Sacchi, from the Institute Regina Elena in Rome.

As always, and together with presentations from top scientists, SIC tried to stimulate young investigator’s active participation in the annual meeting through a dedicated young investigator session and by selecting young presenters for the poster discussion sessions.