



Dr. BARBARA ENSOLI

*Dr. Barbara Ensoli (MD, PhD) a renowned physician and Scientist in the field of AIDS is currently the director of the AIDS Division of Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Rome, Italy.*

*Since 1984 she has been working on HIV as both a physician and a scientist. In 1986 she joined the Laboratory of Tumour Cell Biology (LTCB), National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, where she initiated studies on HIV focusing on the role of HIV-1 Tat in virus replication and in the pathogenesis of AIDS, opening new fields of investigation with major implications for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. In 1996 Dr. Ensoli moved back to Italy as the Director of the AIDS Division in ISS, where she started an*

*HIV vaccine program focused on candidates based on Tat protein or tat-DNA, which were found to be capable of inhibiting virus replication and AIDS development in monkeys. As a result of these efforts, ISS has filed 8 patent applications on HIV/AIDS vaccine development. She is also implementing phase I preventive and therapeutic trials with a Tat-based vaccine candidate in Italy that have started in 2003 and are being successfully completed. In addition, she has spent great long-lasting efforts in the pathogenesis and therapy of AIDS-associated tumors. For example, she has discovered that HIV protease inhibitors, a class of anti-retroviral drugs that are widely used in modern therapies against HIV/AIDS, have direct anti-angiogenic and anti-tumour effects. This discovery has opened new avenues for the use of these drugs, their derivatives, or analogues as novel anti-cancer drugs. Presently, she is directing, coordinating, or organizing several clinical studies in Italy to assess the anti-tumour activity of HIV protease inhibitors in HIV uninfected cancer patients. The scientific excellence of Dr. Ensoli is documented by more than 200 publications in peer-reviewed international journals. Dr. Ensoli is now the Coordinator of the National AIDS Program (Ministry of Health); Bilateral programs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) with South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda for preparatory studies for phase II/III*

*vaccine trials; the ISS/Chiron (USA) industrial agreement for the development of a vaccine against AIDS, and the ISS/Merck (USA) agreement for the use of protease inhibitors in cancer patients. Furthermore, she is the coordinator of the 'AIDS Vaccine Integrated Project' (AVIP), an Integrated Project recently awarded by the EU Commission (6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme) and the President of the Steering Committee of the 'Very Innovative AIDS Vaccine' (VIIV), a Specific Targeted Research Project, also awarded by the EU Commission (6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme).*

*She is a member of numerous scientific committees and societies including the WHO-UNAIDS Vaccine Advisory Committee, and the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). She is also the vicepresident of the Science Committee of UNESCO and a delegate for Italy to the United Nations for the Global Fund for AIDS.*

*Dr. Barbara Ensoli has been selected by the World Scientist Forum for "Eminent Scientist of the Year 2005" International Award from Italy in the field of HIV based on her leadership in organizing AIDS control programs and research activities in HIV. Her contribution in prevention and control of AIDS were specially noted for this award.*