
Fighting Cancer, the Italian Chemical Society Award to Dario Neri, CEO of Philogen

The founder of the Italian-Swiss company has been awarded the 'Piero Pratesi Medal' 2023, the most prestigious Italian award in the chemical-pharmaceutical field.

His research has focused on the development of antibody-based therapies and DNA-encoded chemical libraries, at the forefront of cancer treatment.

[Siena, 20.09.23] - In recognition of his many years of research and industrial application of cutting-edge therapies in the fight against cancer. Prof. Dario Neri, founder of Philogen and Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), was awarded the "Piero Pratesi Medal", the most prestigious prize awarded by the Italian Chemical Society, on 18 September in Chieti. The award recognizes the outstanding contribution of Prof. Neri and Philogen to biotechnological innovation at an international level. Their research and application activities in recent years have focused on the development of targeted therapies based on antibodies and small organic molecules, which are at the forefront of treatments against certain types of tumors.

The award ceremony took place in Chieti during the National Congress of the Italian Chemical Society. The Pratesi Medal is a prestigious award given every three years to outstanding individuals in academia or industry whose scientific achievements in the field of chemical-pharmaceutical sciences have a significant international impact. Prof. Dario Neri was selected for this honor because of his outstanding career and pioneering contributions.

Prof Neri is currently Professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH), Honorary Senior Visiting Fellow at the University of Cambridge (UK) and member of the Teaching Commission of the Doctoral School in Biotechnology at the University of Siena. He has published over 500 articles in international journals and has received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding scientific work.

Under Prof. Neri's leadership, Philogen has pioneered the development of innovative biotechnology products for the treatment of cancer. Several of these products are currently in phase III clinical trials worldwide. Philogen's success is the result of the group's extensive experience in both DNA-encoded chemical libraries and antibody phage display, as well as in the production of industrial drugs under Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

Philogen currently operates two GMP production sites in the Siena area, in Rosia and Montarioso, and a discovery site in Zurich, demonstrating its commitment to innovative drug discovery and development.

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Philogen Group Description

Philogen is an Italian-Swiss company active in the biotechnology sector, specialized in the research and development of pharmaceutical products for the treatment of highly lethal diseases. The Group mainly discovers and develops targeted anticancer drugs, exploiting high-affinity ligands for tumor markers (also called tumor antigens). These ligands - human monoclonal antibodies or small organic molecules - are identified using *Antibody Phage Display Libraries* and *DNA-Encoded Chemical Library* technologies.

The Group's main therapeutic strategy for the treatment of these diseases is represented by the so-called *tumor targeting*. This approach is based on the use of ligands capable of selectively delivering very potent therapeutic active ingredients (such as pro-inflammatory cytokines) to the tumor mass, sparing healthy tissues. Over the years, Philogen has mainly developed monoclonal antibody-based ligands that are specific for antigens expressed in tumor-associated blood vessels, but not expressed in blood vessels associated with healthy tissues. These

antigens are usually more abundant and more stable than those expressed directly on the surface of tumor cells. This approach, so called *vascular targeting*, is used for most of the projects pursued by the Group.

The Group's objective is to generate, develop and market innovative products for the treatment of diseases for which medical science has not yet identified satisfactory therapies. This is achieved by exploiting (i) proprietary technologies for the isolation of ligands that react with antigens present in certain diseases, (ii) experience in the development of products targeted at the tissues affected by the disease, (iii) experience in drug manufacturing and development, and (iv) an extensive portfolio of patents and intellectual property rights.

Although the Group's drugs are primarily oncology applications, the *targeting* approach is also potentially applicable to other diseases, such as certain chronic inflammatory diseases.

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