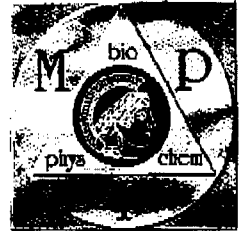


# Max-Planck-Institut für biophysikalische Chemie



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## Report on the 'Center of Excellence on the Pathophysiology of Cell Differentiation' Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

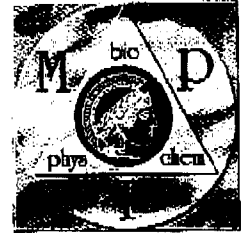
I have been asked to comment on the research achievements of the San Raffaele Center of Excellence. It is a pleasure to do so.

The research groups have made remarkable and internationally highly visible contributions to a wide range of topics of medical relevance. This includes the role of the nuclear protein HMG1 in immunology, the urokinase receptor as a target for therapy and diagnosis in cancer research, and new insights into control mechanisms of protein synthesis. A new class of exocytotic vesicles involved in plasma membrane repair has been discovered and mechanisms of adhesion and migration of immune cells have been uncovered. The latter results have important implications for inflammation and the immune response. Other highlights of the work at San Raffaele were the identification of Ero1 in quality control during protein synthesis and the characterization of synapsin's role in membrane trafficking at the synapse as well as in the generation of synapses and of growth cones.

The above mentioned examples represent only a small fraction of a large body of research results, which have been published in the most visible international journals. They established San Raffaele as a worldwide recognized Center in the fields of immunology, cancer research, and the pathophysiology of cell differentiation, which is unique in Italy. Any infringement of the work would be a severe loss to Italy's biomedical research.



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A particular strong point of the center is the combination of excellent basic research on problems of medical relevance with translational research in a clinical context. A record of 10 patents and the foundation of a spin-off company provide solid evidence for the efficiency of this combination.

San Raffaele is truly a 'Center of Excellence' on the international level.

Göttingen, July 15<sup>th</sup> 2009

Dr. Erwin Neher (Nobel Laureate)

