FONDAZIONE GIANNI BONADONNA | SUPPORTING PARTNER PRADA Group | in collaborazione con ESO European School of Oncology

press release

Milan, February 4th 2026

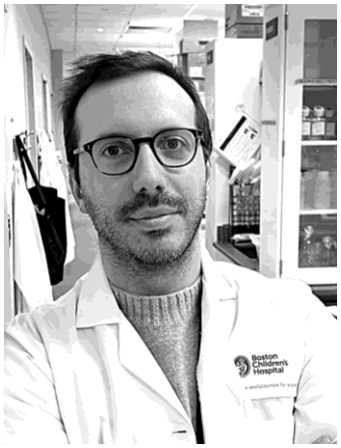
The Gianni Bonadonna Fellowship: an annual initiative that supports talent and research in oncology.

On the occasion of **World Cancer Day 2026**, **Fondazione Gianni Bonadonna**, with the support of the **Prada Group** and in collaboration with the **European School of Oncology (ESO)**, announces the three winners of the **Fellowship named after Gianni Bonadonna**, a leading figure and one of the founding fathers of medical oncology. This recognition will enable **three talented young doctors** to undertake one year of research abroad, contributing to the development of new pathways and knowledge in the field of oncology.

The award recipients **Matteo Maria Naldini, Francesco Romano, and Leonardo Brunetti** will have the opportunity to spend a year at **prestigious international oncology institutions**, where they will develop their research projects, contributing to the advancement of scientific knowledge and the identification of new therapeutic perspectives for cancer patients.

Leonardo Brunetti has recently completed his specialization in Medical Oncology. He works at the Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Campus Bio-Medico in Rome and as a clinical researcher in the Phase 1 Unit at Imperial College London. He has long been involved in lung cancer immunotherapy and in the study of biomarkers associated with response and resistance to treatment. For the project he will carry out at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, he will focus on non–small cell lung cancer in order to understand the mechanisms leading to relapse in tumors that initially respond to PD-L1 inhibitors and to identify which antigens evolve in cases of resistance, with the aim of using them as potential therapeutic targets.

Matteo Maria Naldini obtained his MD and a PhD in Molecular Medicine and is currently completing his specialist training in Oncology at the IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital in Milan. The proposed research project, to be conducted at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute of the University of Cambridge, will focus on triple-negative breast cancer and aims to characterize the interactions between tumor and immune cells within the tumor microenvironment, to understand how they influence the response to immunotherapy. To achieve this, he will exploit advanced spatial proteomics technologies, including imaging mass cytometry, to identify and quantify novel clinical response biomarkers useful in guiding therapeutic decisions for precision oncology.



Francesco Romano completed his specialization in Hematology at the University of Pavia and is currently working at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston / Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center – Harvard Medical School, where, thanks to the Gianni Bonadonna Fellowship, he will be able to continue his studies on acute myeloid leukemia and the application of CAR-T therapy in this disease, in which many antigens that could be potential targets are shared with healthy hematopoietic stem cells. The aim of his research will therefore be the use of advanced gene-editing techniques to mask healthy stem cells and protect them from the effects of CAR-T therapy, while also developing multispecific CAR-T cells that can prevent tumor escape through the modulation of single-antigen expression.

"*Renewing the Gianni Bonadonna Fellowship each year means reaffirming our trust in young doctors and in the central role of research in shaping the future of oncology. The selected projects reflect expertise, vision, and a strong motivation to contribute to concrete improvements in patient care. Supporting these talents along their path of scientific and professional growth is a responsibility that the Foundation pursues with conviction and continuity*'" - says **Luca Gianni, President of Fondazione Gianni Bonadonna**.

The growing interest among young doctors and the high scientific quality of the applications confirm the strength and value of the initiative. In this context, **Fondazione Gianni Bonadonna**, with the support of the **Prada Group** and in collaboration with the **European School of Oncology (ESO)**, is pleased to announce the **sixth edition of the "Gianni Bonadonna" Fellowship in 2026.**

The full Call will be published in the upcoming months on the institutional website of FGB.

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Fondazione Gianni Bonadonna – Fondazione Gianni Bonadonna was launched to honor and pursue the legacy of Gianni Bonadonna, founding father of modern oncology who developed key new therapies for women with breast cancer and patients with lymphomas. Fondazione Gianni Bonadonna's mission is to promote therapeutic innovation from the earliest phases of research and support the education of new generations of physician-scientists in oncology.

Prada Group – The Prada Group is socially engaged to contribute to the sustainable development of the communities and stimulate the cultural debate in all its forms of expression. The Group partners with recognized players and international entities to develop educational and training programs, value talent, support scientific research, foster women's empowerment, and promote local culture and artistic heritage. The Prada Group operates in the luxury sector through the Prada, Miu Miu, Church's, Car Shoe, Versace, Marchesi 1824 and Luna Rossa brands.

European School of Oncology – The European School of Oncology (ESO) is an independent and self-funded non-profit organization, dedicated to high-quality education and training in oncology, to provide patients with equal access to the standard of care. ESO was founded in 1982 by Umberto Veronesi and Laudomia Del Drago, with the mission to reduce the number of cancer deaths due to late diagnosis or inadequate treatment. With the same commitment, ESO today provides extensive and multidisciplinary oncology education programs for the improvement of treatment options for cancer patients.

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