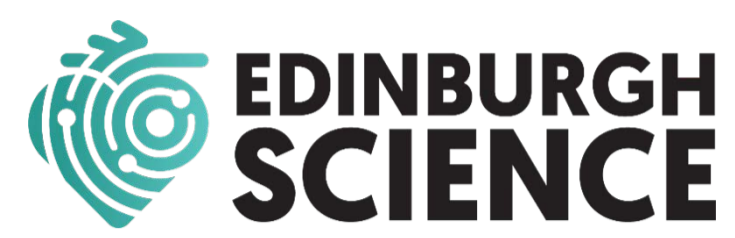


The prestigious Edinburgh Medal is awarded to Mario Negri Research Institute in Italy



Through this rare decision to award the Medal to an organisation rather than an individual, Edinburgh Science calls for urgent investment to create a similar organisation in the UK.



2nd April 2024

More pictures: [Edinburgh Medal ceremony credit Duncan McGlynn](#)

www.sciencefestival.co.uk

[Twitter](#) | [X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#)

Edinburgh Science, an education charity known for its annual Edinburgh Science Festival (on now until 14 April 2024, world's first and still one of the biggest), hosted the prestigious Edinburgh Medal ceremony yesterday which saw the Mario Negri Research Institute being presented the Award. The Edinburgh Medal is awarded by the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, with an oration delivered by Prof Allyson Pollock, and the Vote of Thanks from Prof Wendy Bickmore.

Giuseppe Remuzzi, Director of the Institute, who visited Edinburgh to receive the Medal on behalf of the Institute said: *"I am very honoured to accept the prestigious Edinburgh Medal on behalf of the Mario Negri Institute. This award is a well-deserved acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of all the researchers who have worked for the Institute over the years: their passion and sacrifices have been absolutely vital, because preserving our independence comes at a high price."*

“The Edinburgh Medal also recognises the contributions of all the students we have trained, particularly the impressive number of over 900 international students who have trained at the Mario Negri. Many now occupy important positions, including advisors to the Ministry of Health in their home countries, in leading international transplant organizations, or advisors in senior management roles within universities; one of our former students served as dean of the Universidad Austral de Chile. We are particularly proud to have played a role in their education.”

The Lord Provost Robert Aldridge said: *“In this 35th anniversary year of the Edinburgh International Science Festival (EISF), it was an honour to present the Edinburgh Medal to Director Giuseppe Remuzzi, on behalf of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research.*

“This pioneering independent research institute has carried out outstanding work throughout its 60 year history with a core emphasis on defending human life, health, and ensuring the common good.

“I’d like to congratulate Director Remuzzi and everyone associated with the Institute and they are more than worth recipients of the Edinburgh Medal 2024. My thanks also go to the EISF for another fantastic edition of one of our best loved festivals in the city’s calendar.”

Dr Simon Gage, Director and CEO at Edinburgh Science: *“The way most medicines and many treatments are devised and prescribed is too often driven by the forces of profit and protectionism. This despite most of the basic research being funded by the taxpayer. Over prescription, high prices preventing ubiquitous access, a lack of interest in widespread diseases perceived to be unprofitable and a reluctance to share trial results are some of the symptoms of the current set-up. All get in the way of optimising the health of the global population.*

“The Mario Negri Research Institute sees the world differently, and it is its open access approach to research in health that we applaud and feel inspired by. The Edinburgh Medal recognises pioneers from the world of science who act to better society; this year’s award to a world-class research institute that shows us a different approach to improving global health could not be more fitting. It provokes us to ask why the UK doesn’t have its own institute of this type and to even go further to call for one to be founded.”

Founded in Italy in 1961, Mario Negri Research Institute is a biomedical research institution driven by an ethical imperative to remain ‘patient-oriented’ rather than ‘patent-oriented’ and operating by the following rules:

- Institute doesn’t patent any of its discoveries or research which means it is all publicly available, for free.
- Full transparency and accountability in research planning, implementation and publication. Institute conducts tests on new drugs in comparison with the best available to check if it is better than current provision and not just better than a placebo.
- Institutional and economic independence from government, industry and academia. Development of large-scale clinical trials based on the population of patients who will be the ones using the medicines being evaluated.
- Promotion of public policies to support research for unmet needs rather than marketing and the need for profits.
- Monitoring the transferability of research evidence into clinical practice, taking advantage of professional networks.[1]

Since establishing, the Institute has had an immeasurable impact on the world of medicine and improving people’s lives. In 1986, the Institute introduced a **drug for patients who have suffered from a heart attack which has since saved millions of lives**. Through its research, the Institute has also **reduced the need for dialysis for patients with chronic kidney disease** and improved quality of life for transplant patient by expanding the donor pool to include older donors. In 2007, the Institute developed a new drug, **trabectedin, which has improved survival outcomes for patients with a rare form of sarcoma**, a type of cancer which develops in bones and soft tissues. See Notes for editors for more examples of the Institute’s breakthrough research.