

Professor Roberto Berni Canani, MD, PhD

Professor of Pediatrics

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Biography

Prof Roberto Berni Canani is internationally recognized as one of the leading researchers in the area of pediatric gastroenterology, food allergy and nutrition.

He received his MD and PhD degrees from University of Naples “Federico II”, Naples, Italy. He is board certified in Pediatrics (Registration number: 24558).

Chief of the Pediatric Allergy Unit and founder of the Congenital Food-induced Diarrheal Disorders Website (www.congenitaldiarrhealdisorders.net). A website dedicated to the investigation and the care of congenital diarrheal disorders.

He is author of more than 300 publications among scientific paper on international journals, chapters of books and reviews. His publications are widely quoted (collectively more than >11000 citations as at April 2019). Of these 45 papers have been cited >100 times. H-index score 47. Total impact factor score: >1400.

He is associate editor of World Journal of Gastroenterology, Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Research, Allergies, International Journal of Autoimmune Disease & Therapy.

He is member of many national scientific societies (Italian Society of Pediatrics, Italian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition, Italian Society of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, Italian Society of Infectious Diseases, Italian Society of Pediatric Research, Italian Society of Preventive and Social Pediatrics). Vice-president of the Italian Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition (SIGENP) (2008-2012) and actual chief of the food-induced diseases working group (from 2014).

He is member of the European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) and of the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI).

He has obtained several scientific prizes for the research activity.

Member of the Expert Panel (from 2011) and of the Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies Panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (2012-2015).

He has obtained certificate of achievement of "ICH-GCP" (International Conference on Harmonization Guidelines-Good Clinical Practice n°003004396, Jan 17th, 2017).

Key contributions: Prof. Berni Canani has developed a interdisciplinary research team and a highly integrated research clinical program to better understand the pathogenic mechanisms of food-induced diseases and provide the best care for children affected by these disorders. The Prof. Berni Canani laboratory is mainly focused on the study of basic aspects of human nutrition and selected food-induced diseases: immunonutrition, food allergy, congenital defects of digestion and transport of nutrients and electrolytes, obesity-related non-alcoholic fatty liver disease and dyslipidemia, aiming to move disease biology from the laboratory to clinical practice. The main study aim of the program is focused on the identification of best immune-nutritional strategies to induce oral tolerance in children affected by food allergy, to limits autoimmunity and infectious diseases. A bench to bedside approach is used to investigate pathophysiological basis of pediatric nutrition and food-induced diseases including animal models, peripheral blood cells culture from children, epigenetics biomarkers involved in IgE- and in non-IgE-mediated food allergy, gut microbiota composition analysis using 16sRNA technology, short chain fatty acids and essential fatty acids metabolism. His studies on gut microbiome, oral tolerance and immunonutrition have already been translated into novel concepts and lead to a paradigm shift in the pathogenesis and treatment of food allergy and of other pediatric diseases.

Invitations: He has received >150 personal invitations to speak at international conferences, most of these as a Keynote or Plenary speaker.

Independent Research: Prof Berni Canani has already demonstrated his research leadership potential by establishing a new independent, productive research group in 2000 (currently supporting 30 staff). To this end, he was involved in raising infrastructure funding to fully equip the new laboratories for this growing group. He has also independently raised around Euro 10 million (as chief investigator). He has supervised 25 postgraduate students (11 PhD students and 4 clinical fellows) and 10 honors students.

Media and Public engagement: He has given over 150 presentations to local and international newspapers, radio and television in the last five years. He gives public lectures and writes books for the general public.

Collaborations: Prof Berni Canani has extensive local and international academic research collaborations (in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America) as well as several links with industry and major companies involved in human nutrition.

Member of the reviewers panel of: "Research Projects of National Relevance (PRIN)" of the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research (from 2009); "The Research Projects and Fellowships Fund on Food and Nutrition with Implications on Public Health" Ministry of Health of the State of Israel (2013); "Health Research Board (HRB) Strategic Business Plan 2010- 2014 – The Future of Irish Health" (HRA-POR-2014-553)(2014); "Hertha Firnberg-Program of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)" (2015-2017); "NWO Council for Earth and Life Sciences" (ALW), Ministry of Health Kingdom of the Netherlands (2015); "RFI Food for Tomorrow-Cap Aliment: Transition and adaptation of food systems for the future". European Community Research Grant (2015-2020); "Czech Science Foundation" (2017). "National Institute for Health Research" (NHS), UK (from 2018) Prof Roberto Berni Canani is internationally recognized as one of the leading researchers in the area of pediatric gastroenterology, food allergy and nutrition.

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