

Fabio BENFENATI - CV

Fabio Benfenati graduated in Medicine in 1979 at the Alma Mater University of Bologna, where he specialized in Neurology in 1983. Winner of a “Giuseppe Levi” fellowship by the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei* in 1979, he began his research track first at the Neuroscience Department of the *Karolinska Institutet*, Stockholm, and then at the Rockefeller University, New York, in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Paul Greengard, with whom he consolidated a long-lasting collaboration. Benfenati is full professor of Neurophysiology at the Genoa University Medical School since 2000 and Research Director at the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) since 2006. Within IIT, he founded the Department of Neuroscience and Brain Technologies, and he is currently coordinating the Center for Synaptic Neuroscience and Technology with a group of 40 young neuroscientists. The double background of neurologist and neurophysiologist allowed him to get in depth into the cellular mechanisms that underlie normal brain function and whose dysfunction leads to the pathogenesis of neurological diseases. Over the years, he gave important contributions to the physiological mechanisms of neural communication, by investigating the molecular bases of synaptic transmission and plasticity and the pathogenetic mechanisms of human neurological disorders. More recently, he started the field of hybrid light-sensitive interfaces between neurons and nanomaterials, at the border between neuroscience, nanotechnology and neuroprosthetics. Fabio Benfenati is author of over 400 research papers in peer-reviewed international journals, including several papers in *Science*, *Nature* and *Cell* journals, with a *h*-index of 81 and over 24,000 citations. He is co-inventor of 5 patents. He had an intense mentoring activity and many of his talented collaborators got research positions at the Rockefeller, Stanford e Tufts University in USA, University College and Imperial College in London, EPFL in Lausanne and several Italian Universities. He is member of *Academia Europæa* and of the Academy of the International Union of Physiological Sciences. During his career he was President of the Italian Society for Neuroscience and of the Italian Physiological Society and he is currently President of the Federation of European Physiological Societies and member of the Council of Scientists of Human Frontiers Science Program Organization.