

## **FRANCESCA CASSINELLI AWARD 2025**

**Excellence in Multiple Myeloma Research**

### **RULES AND ELIGIBILITY**

#### **Article 1: General aspects**

The Francesca Cassinelli Award aims at honoring the memory of Francesca Cassinelli, who passed away in 2022 after a dauntless ten-year battle against Multiple Myeloma (MM). The award aims at giving recognition to outstanding researchers whose work has significantly contributed to overcome the challenges of MM and improve the lives of those affected by the disease.

#### **Article 2: Award goals**

The Francesca Cassinelli Award promotes scientific research and innovation in the field of MM by awarding monetary prizes to two researchers (one senior researcher and one junior researcher) who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in their scientific work related to:

- a) The understanding of Multiple Myeloma's pathogenesis and disease mechanisms;*
- b) The development of innovative diagnostic approaches;*
- c) The creation of effective therapeutic strategies, including experimental treatments;*
- d) Initiatives to support patients affected by MM and their families.*

#### **Article 3: Eligibility**

The award is open to nationals of any country with a higher education degree in areas relevant to research on MM and at least three-year experience in research or clinical activity related to MM

#### **Article 4: Selection Committee**

Applications submitted by Candidates will be examined by a Selection Committee, which will eventually identify the recipients of the award.

The selection Committee is composed by five members appointed by Fondazione di Piacenza e Vigevano:

- a representative of Fondazione di Piacenza e Vigevano, who will act as the President of the Committee
- a representative of Francesca Cassinelli's family
- three leading researchers in the field of clinical and translational oncology/hematology, jointly selected by the representative of Fondazione di Piacenza e Vigevano and the representative of Francesca Cassinelli's family.

### **Article 5: Terms of Application**

Applications shall be submitted according to the Official Announcement requirements. The Official Announcement and the requirements are published in English on the website:

[www.fondazionepiacenzavigevano.it/cassinelliaward](http://www.fondazionepiacenzavigevano.it/cassinelliaward)

### **Article 6: Prize-Giving Ceremony**

An Official Prize-Giving Ceremony will be held in Piacenza (Italy), tentatively on 14 January 2026. Final date and place of the Ceremony shall be defined by Fondazione di Piacenza e Vigevano.

At the ceremony, the winners are expected to deliver a lecture illustrating the main outcomes of their research and their relevance for improving the understanding and the treatment of Multiple Myeloma.

### **Article 7: Un-awarded Prizes**

In the absence of Candidatures deserving the Prizes, the un-awarded sum will be added to the budget available for the subsequent edition of the Cassinelli award.

### **Article 8: Publication of Results**

Fondazione di Piacenza e Vigevano may, independently or in cooperation with other groups or individuals, undertake initiatives to promote the publication, divulgation, and communication of the awarded research, and to support scientific activities in schools, universities and in the business world.

### **Article 9: Headquarters**

The headquarters of the Francesca Cassinelli Award Secretariat are located at Fondazione of Piacenza e Vigevano in Piacenza (Italy), via Sant'Eufemia 12/13, [cassinelliaward@fondazionepiacenzavigevano.it](mailto:cassinelliaward@fondazionepiacenzavigevano.it)

### **CONTACTS:**

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## **ANNEX 1: Senior Researcher Award**

A prize consisting in: i) a sum<sup>1</sup> of €20.000 (Twenty-thousand Euros) will be awarded to a senior researcher or group of senior researchers who have achieved internationally significant research and development results in the field of Multiple Myeloma (MM).

The following elements will be considered in the assessment of the Candidature:

- scientific relevance, innovation;
- contribution to identifying diagnostic, therapeutic or prognostic solutions;
- use of innovative technologies, experimental models and methodologies.

The research results must have been published within the past ten (10) years, i.e. since 01 January 2015. Researchers who demonstrate particularly active and productive research in recent years (at least three of the submitted publications published within the last five years, i.e. since 01 January 2020) will be evaluated more favorably.

### **Application procedure**

In addition to the application form filled in all its sections, candidates shall submit the following:

- 1) Curriculum Vitae and Studiorum
- 2) Up to five peer-reviewed publications published in the last ten years. The candidate must be either (co-)first or (co-)last or corresponding author for all listed publications. In case of books, the candidate has to provide an electronic abstract in place of the full text.
- 3) From three to five reference letters. The letters shall be compulsorily written in English and be signed by authoritative members of the academic, scientific or research community. Only letters that certify the scientific value, innovation level and potential applicability of the submitted research proposal will be considered. **The letters shall be sent by email, directly to the Scientific Secretariat of the Cassinelli Award at the address:**

[cassinelliaward@fondazionepiacenzavigevano.it](mailto:cassinelliaward@fondazionepiacenzavigevano.it)

**within the deadline of Monday 13 October 2025, 15:00 hour CET time.**

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<sup>1</sup> In case of ex-aequo, the Prize will be equally divided between the winners.

## **ANNEX 2: Junior Researcher Award**

A prize consisting in: i) a sum<sup>2</sup> of €5.000 (Five-thousand Euros) will be awarded to a Junior researcher (under 40 years of age) who has achieved internationally significant research and development results in the field of Multiple Myeloma (MM)

The candidate shall be under forty (40) years of age, or celebrating his/her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in year 2025.

The following elements will be considered in the assessment of candidatures:

- scientific relevance, innovation;
- contribution to identifying diagnostic, therapeutic or prognostic solutions;
- use of innovative technologies, experimental models and methodologies.

The research results must have been published within the past ten (10) years, i.e. since 01 January 2015. Researchers who demonstrate particularly active and productive research in recent years (at least three of the submitted publications published within the last five years, i.e. since 01 January 2020) will be evaluated more favorably.

### **Application procedure**

In addition to the application form filled in all its sections, candidates shall submit the following:

- 1) Curriculum Vitae and Studiorum
- 2) Up to three (3) peer-reviewed publications published in the last ten years. The candidate must be either (co-)first or (co-)last, or corresponding author for at least two of the submitted publications. In case of books, the Candidate (s) has to provide an electronic abstract in place of the full text.
- 3) From three to five reference letters. The letters shall be compulsorily written in English and be signed by authoritative members of the academic, scientific or research community. Only letters that certify the scientific value, innovation level and potential applicability of the submitted research proposal will be considered. **The letters shall be sent by email, directly to the Scientific Secretariat of the Cassinelli Award at the address:**

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**within the deadline of Monday 13 October 2025, 15:00 hour CET time.**

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<sup>2</sup> In case of ex-aequo, the Prize will be equally divided between the winners.