

## President of the Confederation visits the IRB

Michelin Calmy Rey, President of the Confederation visited the IRB on the 19th of September.



The IRB was proud to host the President of the Confederation, Michelin Calmy Rey during her official visit to Ticino. Recognizing the important contribution that the IRB had made to Swiss biomedical research and in her capacity as Foreign Minister recognizing the importance of international collaboration, the President chose to include the IRB on her two day visit to the Canton.



The President of the IRB, Giorgio Noseda, welcomes the President of the Confederation Michelin Calmy Rey.

IRB Researcher Fabio Grassi illustrates microscopy to the President of the Confederation under the watchful eye of the Director of the IRB, Antonio Lanzavecchia.

Prof. Franco Cavalli presents the IOSI as Giorgio Noseda looks on.



During a presentation of the facilities, Ms. Calmy Rey was given the first copy of the IRB Annual Report, fresh from the printers.

**Lu Zushan, governor of Zhejiang Province of China, visited the IRB on the 14th of September.**



Accompanied by delegation of business executives, government officials, scientists and two interpreters, Mr. Zushan expressed his desire that scientific exchange between the University of Hangzhou and the IRB could be initiated.

The visit was organized by the Cancelleria dello Stato of Ticino following up on contacts made during a trade show last year in Ningbo at which the Canton was present with a stand.

The Province of Zhejiang is one of the most important regions of China for industry and tourism. With more than 50 million inhabitants, and close to Shanghai the region has seen an industrial and technological transformation in the recent past.

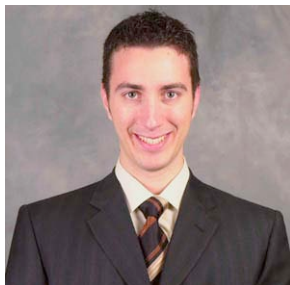
- Delegation:
- Mr. Lu Zushan, Governor of Zhejiang Province
- Mr. Feng Shunqiao, Secretary-general of Zhejiang Provincial Government
- Mr. Ruan Zhongxun, Director-general of Zhejiang Provincial Foreign Affairs Department
- Mr. Liu Qi, Director-general of Zhejiang Provincial Development and Reform Commission
- Mrs. Feng Ming, Director-general of Zhejiang Provincial Foreign Trade and Economic Bureau

- Mr. Zheng Jianming, Director of the General Office of Zhejiang Provincial Government
- Mr. Zhang Xinjian, General Manager of Zhejiang Telecom Co., Ltd
- Mr. Sun Fuyou, Chief-representative of the Hangzhou Office of Huawei Company
- Mr. Liu Qingsong, Director of the Telecommunication Section of the Hangzhou Office of Huawei Company
- Mrs. Dai Hong, Interpreter of Zhejiang Provincial Foreign Affairs Department
- Mrs. Wang Yue, Interpreter of Zhejiang Provincial Foreign Affairs Department

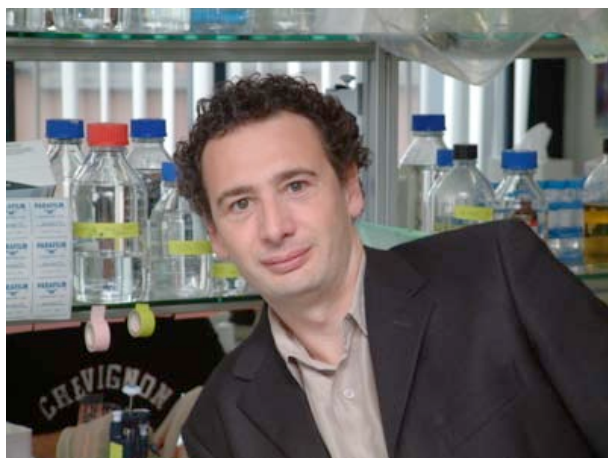


A graduate from the Central Party School, he joined the Communist Party of China in March 1966, graduated from the Engine Department of Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1968 and began his professional career in September that year. Lu served successively as Head of the Production Technology and Quality Group of Zhejiang Auto Industry Company, engineer of the Enterprise Administration Division of the Machinery Department of the Provincial Government, Vice Director-general and Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of the Machinery Department, Secretary of the Party Committee of affiliated offices to the Machinery Department, Director-general and Secretary of the Party Committee of the Machinery Department, Secretary-general of the Provincial Party Committee, Standing Member of the Provincial Party Committee, First Vice Governor, Vice Party Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee. Lu was elected Governor of Zhejiang Province in January 2003. He is also an Alternate Member of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

### **New Student in the lab of Silvia monticelli**



Ramon Jesus Jove Mayoral joined the IRB September 1st as a new PhD student. Ramon did his undergraduate work in biochemistry at the Institut Quimic de Sarria, in Barcelona, Spain. He went on working as a Research Technician at the Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine in Leeds (UK), where he decided he wanted to pursue a scientific career. His research interests include the role of a new family of regulatory molecules (microRNA) in regulating the immune system responses to the environment; he therefore joined Silvia Monticelli at IRB to study the role of specific microRNA molecules in the development and function of mast cells, specific cells of the innate immune system. He will also look into a potential role for these regulatory molecules in the immunopathology of mast cell tumors.



Luca Varani graduated in chemistry at the University of Milan (Italy) with a thesis in structural biology. He then moved to the MRC-Laboratory of Molecular Biology, obtaining a PhD degree at the University of Cambridge (UK) in 2000. His PhD research focused on the role of RNA and protein interactions in regulation of gene expression at the post-transcriptional level, culminating

in the determination of the largest NMR structure and one of only 3 RNA-protein complexes available at the time. He also contributed to show the role of RNA structure in dementia, proving the viability of RNA as a therapeutic target.

After a brief spell in Florence, he moved to Stanford University (USA) as a postdoctoral fellow, being awarded an “EMBO Fellow” in 2003. At Stanford he completed the first NMR study on TCR-pMHC complexes, proposing a novel approach to the systematic characterization of protein-protein interactions.