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SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER 2025 | PROFILE

Professor Dr Elena Conti

Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Martinsried, Germany

Elena Conti is renowned for her groundbreaking research in RNA metabolism and cellular quality control. Her work has significantly advanced our understanding of RNA synthesis, processing, and degradation, which is crucial for maintaining cellular function and gene expression. She determined the atomic structures of key macromolecular complexes, including RNA export factors that transport RNAs from the nucleus to the cytoplasm, the exon junction complex required for pre-mRNA splicing, the exosome that regulates RNA processing and quality control, and the deadenylation complex that initiates mRNA decay. By elucidating these structures and mechanisms, her research has provided deep insights into the molecular machinery governing RNA stability and turnover.

Elena Conti studied chemistry at the University of Pavia, Italy, and earned her PhD from Imperial College London, UK, in 1996. After postdoctoral research at the Rockefeller University in New York, she established her research group at EMBL in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1999. In 2006, she became a director at the MPI of Biochemistry in Martinsried, and in 2007, an Honorary Professor at LMU Munich. She received numerous accolades, including the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine, the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize, the NOMIS Distinguished Scientist and Scholar Award, and three ERC Advanced Grants. She is a Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), the Academia Europaea, and a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and the Lincei Academy.