

ICP Parkinson Institute - Milano

The Parkinson Institute opened in 1997 in via Bignami 1 of the Istituti Clinici di Perfezionamento (ICP) in Milan, thanks also to the contribution by AIP, which fought for years to have a centre dedicated to patients with Parkinson's disease. The Institute provides clinical care and rehabilitation services, and also carries out scientific research on numerous movement disorders that range from rare multisystem atrophies, which are forms of parkinsonism, to the most common movement disorders, such as Parkinson's disease. The healthcare staff directed by Prof Gianni Pezzoli works full-time to take care of patients, ensuring high quality diagnostic and medical services, high levels of professional competence and human understanding. The services range from a simple follow-up neurological examination to highly specialized investigational procedures and laboratory tests in day-hospital. The Institute resorts to the most advanced diagnostic techniques and therapies for the diagnosis and treatment of these movement disorders. They include both drugs and neurosurgery, supplemented by psychiatric, psychological and nutritional interventions that are by no way less important. The doctors working at the Institute also carry out scientific research in their fields of interest, such as the etiopathogenesis, the diagnosis and the treatment of Parkinson's disease, resorting to invaluable external co-operations. The Parkinson Institute, together with the Istituti Clinici di Perfezionamento, Milano, the Grigioni Foundation for Parkinson's disease and Telethon, opened a "DNA Bank" containing DNA samples of patients suffering from Parkinson's disease or related neurological diseases (parkinsonisms and other neurodegenerative diseases) in the month of May 2002, in order to facilitate research on the genetics of these diseases. With the same research objectives, the support of the Grigioni Foundation and the co-operation of Niguarda Hospital in Milan in 2007 the Institute founded a Nervous Tissue Bank that is unique in its kind in Italy.