The ISHR Distinguished Leader Award is an award of high distinction that is conferred annually to an individual who has made sustained outstanding contributions to accomplishing the mission and advancing the objectives of the ISHR. The selection of the recipient is made solely on the basis of a distinguished and consistent track record of major contributions to the Society, such as leadership roles, activities, and initiatives that have benefited and promoted the ISHR by overcoming problems, developing new programs, and expanding the reach and impact of the Society, at the Section and/or the International levels.

In non-Congress years, the Distinguished Leader Award is presented at the meeting of the Section to which the recipient belongs. The winner receives a $1,000 honorarium and a plaque. An announcement of this Award is published in Heart News and Views, and posted in the ISHR website. The winner receives free registration and reimbursement for travel expenses (up to a maximum or $1500 when the recipient delivers the lecture at his/her local Section meeting, and $3,000 when inter-continental travel is required).

Candidates are nominated by current Section Presidents and the President of the International ISHR. The winner is selected by vote of the ISHR-International Council.

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Award Winner
Dr Fabio di Lisa
Fabio Di Lisa is Professor of Biochemistry in the School of Medicine at the University of Padova, Italy, and directs the laboratory of "Oxidative metabolism in cardiac disease" in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. He received his MD degree and Board Certification in Cardiology at Catholic University in Rome. Attracted by basic research, in the early eighties he moved to the University of Padova that was and still is the most advanced center for mitochondrial research in Italy. In 1987, he worked in the laboratory of Loran Bieber in the Department of Biochemistry at Michigan State University focusing on the role carnitine in mitochondrial metabolism. He was then a Visiting Associate (1991-92) in the laboratory of Richard Hansford within the NIA-NIH Unit led by Edward Lakatta in Baltimore.

Prof. Di Lisa became a CNR Researcher in 1984 and was appointed Associate Professor and Full Professor of biochemistry in 1992 and 2002, respectively. In addition to maintaining an intense teaching schedule, he has been involved in the organization and the evaluation of scientific research both within the University of Padova and in National Councils. He currently chairs the Doctorate School in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Padova.

Prof. Di Lisa held the position of President of the European Section of the International Society for Heart Research (ES-ISHR) from 2005 to 2008. In 2007 he organized the ES-ISHR meeting in Padova, co-organized the ISHR World Congress in Bologna and contributed to the successful organization of the 2006 ISHR-ES meeting in Manchester and the 2008 meeting in Athens. Afterwards, he was a member of the International ISHR Council completing his tenure at the Beijing Congress in 2019. He also represented the ES-ISHR within the Programme Committee of the ESC from 2005 to 2014, and served as a member of the Scientific Council of the Society for Heart and Vascular Metabolism, organizing the annual meeting in Padova in 2009.

During his Presidency, the ES-ISHR Council guided a smooth transition from a strong focus on ischemia/reperfusion injury, especially conditioning-related topics, to a more balanced representation of research in cardiology, including mechanisms of heart failure, electrophysiology and ion homeostasis, biochemical and pathophysiological aspects of contractile proteins. In this respect he contributed by constantly focusing on the many facets of mitochondrial involvement in cardiac pathophysiology.

Prof. Di Lisa has provided significant contributions elucidating the involvement of mitochondria in various cardiac diseases. He was elected Fellow of the ISHR in 2007. He received the ISHR Keith Reimer Distinguished Lecture award in 2014 and the Medal of Merit of the ES-ISHR in 2015. Since 2003 he has been an Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology as well as Basic Research in Cardiology, Cardiovascular Research and the Journal of Biological Chemistry.