

Giovanni Bernardini is professor and director of the Dipartimento di Biotecnologie e Scienze della Vita of the University of Insubria. After having obtained his Doctor degree in Biology in 1979 at the University of Milano, he has been Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Department of Physiology of the University of Rochester, N.Y. where he studied intercellular junctions. Back to the University of Milano in 1983, he worked on gamete biology and fertilization using as a model the anuran *Xenopus laevis*. For these researches, presented at different Gordon Conferences, he collaborated with Marie Paule Cosson of the CNRS di Villefranche sM and with Jerry Hedrick of the University of California at Davis where he has been Associate in the Experimental Station in 1987. Lately, he has used *Xenopus* embryos for the development of a bioassay for evaluating the teratogenic risk. For this, in 2000 he has been invited by the Department of Health and Human Services as a member of an Expert Panel “to assess the current validation status of FETAX”.

Recently, he has been interested in gene modifications during vertebrate evolution, gene expression changes induced by metals and nanoparticles to obtain biomarkers of exposure and in functional genomics applied to animal biotechnology.