



The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists  
La Société Canadienne de Biologie Végétale



**2021 Society Gold Medal**

**Dr. Vincenzo De Luca**

**Brock University**

Dr. Vincenzo De Luca is an outstanding, internationally renowned scientist who has made significant contributions to the fields of plant biochemistry and biotechnology. Dr. De Luca received his M.Sc. from Queen's University (1978) and completed his Ph.D. at Concordia University (1984). Following his PhD, Dr. De Luca held appointments at various institutions, including the National Research Council of Canada (Saskatoon) and University of Montréal, before joining the Department of Biological Sciences at Brock University in 2001 as a Canada Research Chair (Tier I) in Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology.

Dr. De Luca has made notable research contributions towards deciphering the complex biosynthetic pathways of isoprenoid indole alkaloids, especially monoterpenoid indole alkaloids and bisindole alkaloids such as the anticancer drugs vinblastine and vincristine from *Catharanthus roseus*. Dr. De Luca utilized advanced tools and approaches to identify biosynthetic enzymes, determine sites of synthesis, and describe transport mechanisms. Dr. De Luca's research findings are instrumental in the development of methods for production of the anticancer drug. His contributions to the field are reflected in the over 110 research publications in leading international journals with over 10,000 citations.

Dr. De Luca also has an outstanding record of service to the national and international plant biology communities. He served on the Executive of the Canadian Society of Plant Biology and the Phytochemical Society of North America and participated in organizing many national and international societal meetings. Notably, Dr. De Luca has served as associate editor for several scientific journals including current and long-standing editorships with *Phytochemistry* and *Molecular Plant*. Other contributions include service on scientific advisory boards, grant selection panels and various societal committees. Dr. De Luca has been very active in training and mentoring young scientist, supervising 30 graduate students and 18 postdoctoral fellows, many of which have developed their own careers in academia and industry.

The plant biology community has benefitted greatly from Dr. De Luca's research and service contributions, and the CSPB/SCBV is very honoured to award the very deserving recognition of the 2021 Society Gold Medal to Dr. Vincenzo De Luca.