

# “Fast DNA sequencing by electrical means”

Prof. Massimiliano Di Ventra

“Precision medicine” refers to the ability of tailoring drugs to the specific genome of an individual rather than to an average population [1]. It is however not yet feasible due the high cost and slow speed of present DNA sequencing methods. I will discuss several strategies to accomplish this feat. In particular, I will focus on a DNA sequencing protocol that requires the measurement of the distributions of transverse *tunneling* currents during the translocation of single-stranded DNA into nanopores [2-5]. I will show that such a sequencing approach can reach unprecedented speeds, thus opening up the possibility for personalized medicine. Recent experiments support these theoretical predictions and are a step forward toward making personalized medicine a reality [6]. I will also present recent results on a new sequencing strategy that uses transverse *ionic* currents in lieu of tunneling currents, and analyze the possibilities and limitations of such an approach [7].

- [1] M. Zwolak, M. Di Ventra, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* 2008, **80**, 141.
- [2] M. Zwolak and M. Di Ventra, *Nano Lett.* 2005 **5**, 421.
- [3] J. Lagerqvist, M. Zwolak, and M. Di Ventra, *Nano Lett.*, 2006 **6**, 779.
- [4] J. Lagerqvist, M. Zwolak, and M. Di Ventra, *Biophys. J.* 2007, **93**, 2384.
- [5] M. Krems, M. Zwolak, Y.V. Pershin, and M. Di Ventra, *Biophys. J.* 2009, **97**, 1990.
- [6] T. Ohshiro, K. Matsubara, M. Tsutsui, M. Furuhashi, M. Taniguchi and T. Kawai, *Nature: Scientific Reports*, 2012, 2, 501.
- [7] J. Wilson and M. Di Ventra, arxiv 2013.



**Massimiliano Di Ventra** received his Ph.D. degree in theoretical physics from the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1997. His research interests are in the theory of electronic and transport properties of nanoscale systems, non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, DNA sequencing/polymer dynamics in nanopores, and memory effects in nanostructures for applications in unconventional computing and biophysics. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the Institute of Physics. He has co-edited the textbook *Introduction to Nanoscale Science and Technology* (Springer, 2004) for undergraduate students, and he is single author of the graduate-level textbook *Electrical Transport in Nanoscale Systems* (Cambridge University Press, 2008).