



## PRESS RELEASE

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### The Wistar Institute Announces New Caspar Wistar Fellow, Dr. Irene Bertolini

*Wistar scientist joins faculty to pursue research in breast and brain cancers*

**PHILADELPHIA — (Feb. 14, 2024) —** [The Wistar Institute](https://www.wistar.org/), an international biomedical research leader in cancer, infectious disease, immunology, and vaccine development, is pleased to announce the recruitment of [Irene Bertolini, Ph.D.](#), to the [Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center](#), where she joins Wistar's [Immunology, Microenvironment, and Metastasis Program](#) as a Caspar Wistar Fellow.

Dr. Bertolini's promotion to Wistar faculty is made possible by the [Caspar Wistar Fellows Program](#), which supports outstanding junior scientists in the early stages of their careers as independent investigators. As a faculty member, Dr. Bertolini now runs her own laboratory, which allows her to pursue and develop her research interests in collaboration with Wistar scientists as well as biomedical researchers throughout the world.

"I'm both excited and grateful for the opportunity to join the faculty of The Wistar Institute as a Caspar Wistar Fellow," said Dr. Bertolini. "I know first-hand the exceptional environment and resources that Wistar has to offer new investigators like me — I can't think of a better place to start my lab."



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Dr. Bertolini is establishing the Bertolini lab to study the relationship between breast & brain cancers and extracellular vesicles, which are packets of biological materials that cells emit and exchange. Certain extracellular vesicles from cancerous cells can contribute to conditions that can promote cancer's growth and spread, and Dr. Bertolini's research program aims to characterize — and, ultimately, find a way to stop — the pro-cancer mechanisms of extracellular vesicles.

"Irene has been an invaluable member of my lab for years, so it is a special pleasure for me to watch her step up to the role of Caspar Wistar Fellow," says [Dario Altieri, M.D.](#), Wistar president and CEO, director of the Ellen and Ronald Caplan Cancer Center, and the Robert and Penny Fox Distinguished Professor. "With years of experience and a love for her work, Dr. Bertolini will do the Wistar name proud. Her work on the tumor microenvironment and extracellular vesicles is an exciting contribution to Wistar's cancer research, and I look forward to seeing what the Bertolini lab will accomplish."

#### **ABOUT THE WISTAR INSTITUTE:**

The Wistar Institute, the first independent nonprofit biomedical research institute in the United States, marshals the talents of an international team of outstanding scientists through a highly enabled culture of biomedical collaboration and innovation, to solve some of the world's most challenging and important problems in the field of cancer, immunology, and infectious diseases, and produce groundbreaking advances in world health. Consistent with a pioneering legacy of leadership in not-for-profit biomedical research and a track record of life-saving contributions in immunology and cell biology, Wistar scientists pursue novel and courageous research paths to life science discovery, and to accelerate the impact of early-stage discoveries by shortening the path from bench to bedside. [wistar.org](http://wistar.org).