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## **Marco Tizzano Named Morley R. Kare Research Fellow**

(PHILADELPHIA – November 8, 2018) – Physiologist Marco Tizzano, PhD, has been named as the Monell Center’s 2018-2020 Morley R. Kare Fellow. Tizzano’s research focuses on increasing understanding of solitary chemosensory cells (SCCs), specialized chemosensory sentinel cells located in the nasal and oral mucosae that are involved in respiratory protective reflexes and mucosal immune responses.

As a Kare Fellow, Tizzano joins a distinguished list of Monell faculty supported by the award during the early stages of their careers. He will receive three years of salary support to supplement his 5-year R01 grant, along with additional funding for research supplies.

The Kare Fellowship was established in 1990 to honor the vision of Monell’s founding Director, Morley Kare, PhD, who recognized the importance of nurturing young scientists to become leaders in the chemical senses. Support for the Fellowship is provided by donations from Dr. Kare’s family and friends, other individual donors, and the Monell Foundation.

Tizzano’s work has demonstrated that SCCs in the nasal passages detect and respond to airborne irritants and bacterial by-products by initiating protective behavioral reflexes and evoking immune responses. In recent work, Tizzano and colleagues have shown that SCCs in the gingiva (gums) are sentinel cells that detect bacterial infection and protect against periodontitis (gum disease).

“Marco’s groundbreaking work adds significant depth to the Monell Center’s research on chemosensory cells other than taste and olfactory cells. By better characterizing how SCCs function, he will help identify pharmacological targets to treat asthma, allergy, mucosal infections and periodontal disease,” said Monell Director Robert Margolskee, MD, PhD. “His research also has important implications related to protection of the olfactory epithelium, which contains the receptors responsible for the sense of smell.”



Tizzano received his doctoral degree in Congenital Metabolic Pathophysiology from the University of Verona in Italy. He went on to complete postdoctoral work in Chemosensation at the University of Verona and then at the University of Colorado, before joining Monell, where he holds the rank of Assistant Member, in 2015.

“The Kare Fellowship provides important financial support that helps ensure the success of Monell’s junior scientists,” said Tizzano. “Receiving this award is a great honor that allows me to focus on my research, advance my career, and augment Monell’s mission to be at the vanguard of research in the chemical senses”.

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The Monell Chemical Senses Center is an independent nonprofit basic research institute based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Founded in 1968 and now celebrating its 50th anniversary, Monell builds on its legacy of advancing scientific understanding of the mechanisms and functions of taste and smell to benefit human health and well-being. Using an interdisciplinary approach, scientists collaborate in the programmatic areas of sensation and perception; neuroscience and molecular biology; environmental and occupational health; nutrition and appetite; health and well-being; development, aging and regeneration; and chemical ecology and communication. For more information about Monell, visit [www.monell.org](http://www.monell.org).