



Luigi Luca Cavalli Sforza

Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza, M.D.Pavia 1944, has worked on sex in bacteria and the origin of resistance to antibiotics, and beginning in the early fifties started research in human population genetics and evolution, showing the major role of random genetic drift, and the help the understanding of this evolutionary factor gives to the reconstruction of the evolutionary origin of human populations, using genetic data of a great variety of types, from blood groups to proteins and DNA (including mitochondria and of the Y chromosome, as well as microsatellites) which all gave coherent conclusions. He also introduced in the investigation of human evolution multi-disciplinary approaches, including linguistics, and showed the correctness of a statement by Darwin in his Origin of Species, that "if we possessed a perfect pedigree of mankind, a genealogical arrangement of the races of man would afford the best classification of all languages now spoken throughout the world".