



The Bracco Foundation is a proud sponsor of the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum exhibition dedicated to **Leonardo da Vinci's "Codex on the Flight of Birds"** in the Year of Italian Culture in the US.

The Codex is an exemplary representation of the diversity of Leonardo's genius – **artistic and scientific at the same time**. This double aspect perfectly fits the core mission of our Foundation, which is to **create, promote and propagate expressions of culture, science and art, as a way to improve quality of life and social cohesion**.

The Bracco Foundation is an institution which is proud to have its roots embedded in the wealth of values firmly upheld by the Bracco family and company for over 85 years, the primary value being that of corporate social responsibility. The Foundation, which boasts a highly international profile, enhances Italy's cultural, historical and artistic heritage at national and global levels. It also stimulates environmental awareness, promotes scientific research, safeguards health, supports education and professional training for young people and develops welfare and solidarity initiatives in order to contribute to collective well-being.

The Foundation is not simply a grant making organization. On the contrary, it not only conceptually designs projects addressing themes of interest in the **three main branches of activity, Art and culture, Science, Community**, but it is also responsible for the preparation and concrete execution of the project itself. **Given this diversity of our areas of interest, we seek projects at the intersection of these branches. Leonardo da Vinci's "Codex on the Flight of Birds" is one of them.**

Moreover, we have a special relationship with the United States, a country which has always been a key international reference point for the Foundation's philanthropic activities, and has granted me personally the honor of being the only non-American member of the Trustees' Council of the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

In the United States the Bracco Foundation has partnered with many cultural organizations. Among these others, was the highly successful Exhibit, "*Venice: Canaletto and his rivals*", held at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in 2011. Furthermore we served as the Institutional Partner of the Italian Embassy in the U.S. on the occasion of the Opening Concert of the Anniversary of Italian Unity held on March 17, 2011 in Washington and directed by Maestro Lorin Maazel. As for **2013, Year of the Italian Culture in the United States, we will also be present with two concerts of the Accademia del Teatro alla Scala Orchestra** directed by Maestro Daniele Rustioni, that will take place in December at the Chicago Harris Theater and at the Strathmore Hall in Washington. The program includes of course the great Italian Opera tradition: Verdi, Puccini, Rossini, Donizetti.

Diana Bracco, President of the Bracco Foundation