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Vincenzo Lombardi started research in muscle physiology just after his Biology degree in 1970. The milestone in his scientific career has been the collaboration with Sir Andrew Huxley (University College London,1979-1981), for the development of high resolution devices for sarcomere-level mechanics in single fibres from frog skeletal muscle. Combination of fast mechanics and time resolved X-ray diffraction from synchrotron light has brought to the nanometer-microsecond description of the muscle myosin performance in situ and more recently of its regulation by mechanosensing in the thick filament.