

# 2<sup>nd</sup> NEUROSCIENCE CONGRESS-2026

**CNR – NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE**  
**PADUA, 14–16 OCTOBER 2026**

## **Remote Participation**

The congress sessions will also be available remotely at the following link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/380532237746665?p=r3Qmfk46ZaksDe7Mm8>

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## Scientific Program

### DAY 1

#### WEDNESDAY 14th October

c/o Aula Magna Complesso Vallisneri (viale G. Colombo, 3)

- 13:00-13:30 Registration
- 13:30-14:00 Welcome and general address by Michela Fagiolini CNR-IN Director and Francesco Dotta CNR-DSBM Director
- 14:00-14:20 **Introducing the Secondary Sites** by Michela Fagiolini CNR-IN Director
- 14:20-16:00 ***Session 1: Neural Circuits: Development, Cognition and Dysfunction***  
Chair: Michela Fagiolini
- 14:20-14:40 Micaela Zonta (CNR-IN PD) - *A role for astroglial Ca<sup>2+</sup> signal dysfunction in familial Alzheimer's disease*
- 14:40-15:00 Andrea Mastio (DSB-UniCA/CNR-IN CA) - *Systemic immune activation in early adulthood induces long-term synaptic, circuit and neuromodulatory dysfunction in a transgenic mouse model of Alzheimer's disease*
- 15:00-15:20 Erika Donà (CNR-IN MI) - *From timing to wiring: a global molecular code for birth order and neuronal identity in Drosophila*

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- 15:20-15:40 Giovanni Vecchiato (CNR-IN PR) - *Parieto-frontal mechanisms process architecture during dynamic spatial experience in virtual reality*
- 15:40-16:00 Guido M. Cicchini (CNR-IN PI) - *A flexible system for anticipating a changing environment*
- 16:00-16:30 **Break**
- 16:30-17:30 **4th Tullio Pozzan Memorial Lecture - Anant Parekh** (University of Oxford) - "Standing on the shoulders of a giant: building on Tullio Pozzan's work concerning local signals"
- 17:30-18:30 **Poster session and sponsors**
- 18:30-19:30 **Apericena**  
In front of Rooms 0B and 0C – Ground Floor, Vallisneri Building
- 20:00-22:30 **Public event:**  
c/o Auditorium Modigliani (via E. degli Scrovegni, 30)

Round Table Discussion: "Neuro-diversità, una risorsa per tutti, una sfida per ciascuno" with the participation of DADI Association and Ca'Leido Cooperative. Introduction by Michela Fagiolini  
Performance by Guido Marangoni "Siamo fatti di-versi, perché siamo poesia"

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## DAY 2

### THURSDAY 15th October

c/o Casa del Pellegrino (via M. Cesarotti, 21)

- 09:00-10:30 Neuroscience Institute Plenary Meeting (For CNR Employees Only)
- 10:30-11:00 **Coffee break and sponsors**
- 11:00-13:00 **Session 2: Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms in Neurological Disease**  
Chair: Claudia Verderio
- 11:00-11:20 Antea Minetti (CNR-IN PI) - *Repurposing Riluzole and a Novel Sodium Channel Blocker to Enhance Chemosensitivity in Glioblastoma through Modulation of Tumor–Neuron Crosstalk*
- 11:20-11:40 Antonio G. Zippo (CNR-IN MI) - *Losing the column: aberrant lateral connectivity in S1 as a causal and treatable substrate of chronic pain*
- 11:40-12:00 Paola Fadda (DSB-UniCA/CNR-IN CA) - *Exploring the Brain Renin–Angiotensin System: From Molecular Mechanisms to Behavioral Outcomes in Humanized CAG-hACE2 Transgenic Mice*
- 12:00-12:20 Caterina Cremonesi (Prodotti Gianni) - *Extracellular Vesicles: Advancing Research Through Automated Isolation and Integrated Solutions*
- 12:20-12:40 Giulia Rosini (CNR-IN PI) - *Differential redox-mitochondrial adaptation to ultra-high-dose-rate irradiation in astrocytes and glioma cells*
- 12:40-13:00 Sharon Muggeo (CNR-IN MI) - *CARescue of Parkinson's disease*
- 13:00-14:30 **Lunch on your own**

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- 14:30-16:30 **Session 3: Environment, Health and Translational Neuroscience**  
Chair: Vania Broccoli
- 14:30-14:50 Ornella Rossetto (DSB-UniPD/CNR-IN PD) - *Rethinking Botulism: The Gut as the First Target of Botulinum Neurotoxins*
- 14:50-15:10 Elisabetta Menna (CNR-IN MI) - *Prenatal exposure to maternal SARS-CoV-2 infection leads to altered neuro-immune biomarker profiles at birth*
- 15:10-15:30 Andrea Tura (CNR-IN PD) - *Mechanisms underlying improved glycemic control with combined saxagliptin and dapagliflozin therapy in patients with type 2 diabetes*
- 15:30-15:50 Mattia Criscuoli (Bio-Rad) - *Pushing sensitivity beyond limits: Droplet Digital PCR technology*
- 15:50-16:10 Zaira Romeo (CNR-IN PD) - *Multidomain Interventions To Improve The Cognitive And Functional Well-Being Of Older Individuals In Long-Term Care Facilities: The I-COUNT Pilot Study*
- 16:10-16:30 Marco Mainardi (DSB-UniPD/CNR-IN PD) - *Studying lifestyle impact on synapses using proximity labeling-based proteomics*
- 16:30-17:00 **Coffee break and sponsors**
- 17:00-17:45 **Plenary Lecture**  
**Manuela Piazza** (University of Trento) - *"Space as the Fabric of Thought: Recycling the "Brain GPS" for High-Level Cognition"*
- 17:45-18:45 **Institute Council**
- 20:00 **Social Dinner and Best Poster Prize** (Fondazione Matteo Caleo)

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**DAY 3**

**FRIDAY 16th October**

c/o Casa del Pellegrino (via M. Cesarotti, 21)

- 09:00-11:00 ***Session 4: From Brain Networks to Organoids: Advanced Models and Technologies in Neuroscience***  
Chair: Alessandro Sale
- 09:00-09:20 Maria Del Vecchio (CNR-IN PR) - *Network Reorganization After Radiofrequency Thermocoagulation in Regions Supporting Conscious Tactile Perception*
- 09:20-09:40 Elisa Greotti (CNR-IN PD) - *Dissecting the role of mitochondrial calcium signalling in Alzheimer's disease*
- 09:40-10:00 Fabrizio Sitzia (BRUKER) - *Bruker Fluorescence Microscopy Portfolio: Imaging across all scale, from extracellular vesicles to behaviour*
- 10:00-10:20 Giulio Morri (PNC PD/CNR-IN PD) - *Whole-brain network analysis reveals functional and structural disconnenctions in a mouse model for stroke*
- 10:20-10:40 Maria Rosaria Imperato (Eurobiodid) - *From Advanced Neural Cultures to Organoids: Harnessing the Potential of Cellular Models to Advance Neuroscience Research.*
- 10:40-11:00 Filippo Chiesa (UniMI/BIOMETRA) - *Generation of patient-specific, iPSC-derived brainstem organoids to study Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome (CCHS)*
- 11:00-11:30 ***Coffee break***

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- 11:30-12:00 **Short lecture**  
**Cecilia Laterza** (DSB-UniPD/VIMM) - *“Developing personalized therapies using human engineered brain models”*
- 12:00-13:00 **Round table: “The Future of Neuroscience: The Emerging Role of Organoids”**  
Chair: Vania Broccoli

Participants:

Michela Fagiolini: Director, CNR Institute of Neuroscience

Alessandra Bertoldo: Director, Padova Neuroscience Center,  
University of Padua

Nicola Elvassore: Scientific Director, Veneto Institute of Molecular  
Medicine (VIMM)

Gianluca Sferrazza: CNR Department of Biomedical Sciences –  
Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer

Maria Rosaria Imperato: Eurobiodid

- 13:00-13:30 **Concluding remarks**
- 14:15- **Guided Tour of Padua (For registered participants only)**  
The guided tour on the afternoon of October 16 will be led by a professional tour guide. The 2-hour itinerary includes an indoor visit to the Basilica of Saint Anthony, followed by a walk through the medieval heart of the city, exploring the historic market squares and Padua's most iconic landmarks (including external views of Palazzo della Ragione, the Town Hall, Palazzo Bo, and the historic Caffè Pedrocchi).

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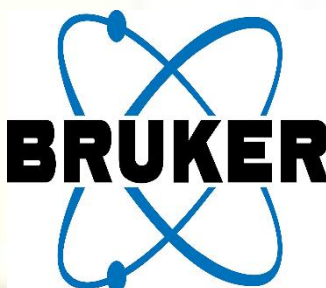
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**We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors:**



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