

**September 3, 2026**

**8:30-9:00 Attendee Registration**

**9:00-9:20 Welcome Remarks**

**Alessandro Cama e Paola Lanuti**, Delegates of the "G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara to the Technical-Scientific Committee of the NICo Network.

**Liborio Stuppia**, Rector of the "G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara

**Vincenzo De Laurenzi**, Director of CAST – Center for Advanced Studies and Technology ("G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti-Pescara)

**Valentina Adami**, Italian Core Facilities Network NICo (University of Trento)

**9:20-10:00 PLENARY LECTURE - *Managing Complexity in an Advanced Cytometry Platform. From Scientific Support to Technological Innovation* - Óscar Fornas** (Centre for Genomic Regulation and Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, Spain)

**10:00-11:30 Session 1: From Core Facilities to Therapy: Advancing Extracellular Vesicles Research** (Chairs: Paola Lanuti, Davide Brocco, Rebecca Piccarducci)

**10:00- 10:15 EVIta society: Fostering Collaboration, Education, and Innovation in Extracellular Vesicle Research - Iliaria Giusti** (University of l'Aquila)

**10:15-10:30 Cell factories for scalable extracellular vesicle production in therapeutic applications – Mauro Di Ianni** ("G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti – Pescara)

**10:30-10:45 Extracellular vesicles derived from B7-H3 CAR-T cells: a promising strategy for Pancreatic cancer treatment - Anna Piro** ("G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti – Pescara)

**10:45-11:00 Biobanking Biofluids for EV Research: Towards Fitness for Purpose - Paola Gasperini** (University of Trento)

**11:00-11:15 Extracellular vesicle flow cytometry: calibration, assay design, and the dilution paradox - Joyce Rops** (Amsterdam University Medical Center)

**11:15-11:30 Proceedings in EVs and nanoparticle research: bridging Isolation and Quantification methodologies with functional and super-resolved single-particle interactions - Simone Vumbaca** (Sponsored by Crisel Instrument)

**11:30-12:00 Coffee Break** (Sponsored by Scuola di Specializzazione in Patologia Clinica e Biochimica Clinica, "G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti – Pescara) **and Sponsor Exhibition**

**12:00-13:15 Session 2: Integrating Omics Data and Molecular Technologies to Empower Precision Medicine** (Chairs: Maria Foti, Pasquale De Luca)

**12:00-12:15 Multi OMICS investigations: pitfalls and opportunities for clinical research facilities - Andrea Urbani** (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart)

**12:15-12:30 Multimodal data analysis integration: from environment to health - Piero Chiacchiaretta** ("G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti – Pescara)

**12:30-12:45 Integrated Proteomic and Metabolomic Analysis of Dried Blood Spots in inherited rare Diseases - Iliaria Cicalini** ("G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti – Pescara)

**12:45-13:00 Three Visions, One Cell: Challenges and Successes of an Integrated FACS-HTS-NGS Facility Mode - Veronica De Sanctis/Alessandro Mattè** (University of Trento)

**13:00-13:15 Droplet Digital PCR: Accuracy, Sensitivity, and Absolute Quantification to meet the most complex analytical needs across various application fields - Eugenia Pisano** (Sponsored by BIORAD)

**13:15-14:30 LUNCH/POSTER SESSION**

**14:30- 15:15 Session 3: Spectral and Imaging Technologies Driving Next-Generation Core Facilities** (Chairs: Samantha Solito, Óscar Fornas)

14:30-14:45 *Meeting Research Needs: Imaging and Spectral Flow Cytometry in Core Facilities* - **Silvia Bombelli** (Human Technopole Foundation) (Sponsored by Aurogene/Cytex)

14:45-15:00 *From blood to tears: high-dimensional immune profiling with CytoFLEX mosaic* - **Nicola Tumino** (IRCCS Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital) (Sponsored by Beckman Coulter)

15:00-15:15 *Advancing Flow Cytometry Through Integrated Imaging: From Technology to Real World Applications* - **Benoit Vincart/Francesca D'Ascanio** (European Scientific and Training Support, Waters Biosciences, EMEA, Belgium) / ("G. d'Annunzio" University of Chieti – Pescara) (Sponsored by BD)

**15:15-16:15 Coffee Break and Sponsor Exhibition with William Telford (National Institutes of Health, NIH)**

**16:15- 17:15 Session 4: Advanced Technologies Empowering Core Facilities** (Chairs: Simone Capaccioli, Piero Chiacchiaretta, Manuela Ferracin)

16:15-16:30 *Next-Generation Metabolic Profiling: Dissecting Mitochondrial Activity Through Integrated Functional Platforms* – **Alessio Menga** (University of Eastern Piedmont)

16:30-16:45 *AI-driven 3D X-ray Microscopy for Multidisciplinary Research* - **Angelica Accorinti** (Polytechnic University of Turin) (Sponsored by ZEISS)

16:45-17:00 *Latest news from the volume EM world: a new era in the Life Science* - **Paolo Ferraina** (Sponsored by JEOL)

17:00-17:15 *Data, compute, trust: a new infrastructure model for core facilities* - **Stefano Diciotti** (University of Bologna)

**17:30-18:30 Parallel Activities Round table: advancing flow cytometry analysis of extracellular vesicles - challenges and perspectives**

(Óscar Fornas, Joshua Welsh, Daniele Manganaro, Benoît Vincart, Florian Kern, Paola Lanuti, Davide Brocco, Isabella Pesce)

17:30-18:30 Poster session - Prize Prof. Agostino Consoli

**18:45 Transfer for Chiusa Grande**

## **September 4, 2026**

9:00–9:20 Award ceremony for the top 3 posters – Prof. Agostino Consoli Award

Brief presentation of the selected posters

Prizes sponsored by Casale Paradiso

9:20–10:30 Core Facilities and quality: collaboration with BBMRI.it and HARMONICo inter-laboratory tests – Chair: Valentina Adami (University of Trento)

9:30–9:45 NGS – Transcriptomics, Riccardo Scandino (University of Trento)

9:45–10:00 MS – Proteomics, Piero del Boccio (G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara)

10:00–10:15 Fluorescence Microscopy, Amanda Oldani (University of Pavia)

10:15–10:30 Flow Cytometry – EVs, Isabella Pesce (University of Trento)

10:30–10:45 Data Management – Michele Alderighi (University of Pisa)

**COFFE BREAK 10:45 - 11:00**

11:00–11:20 Positioning the NICO network within the national landscape – **Samantha Solito** (University of Pavia)

11:20–13:15 Round table: “The role of Core Facilities in national research: valorization, sustainability, and staff recognition”

(Moderators: Gerardo D’Errico, Veronica De Sanctis, Simone Capaccioli)

Speakers:

- CRUI Delegate for Research, Rector of the “G. d’Annunzio” University, Prof. Liborio Stuppia
- CRUI Delegate for Research, Rector of the University of Eastern Piedmont, Prof. Menico Rizzi
- Coordinator of Human Technopole National Platforms, Prof. Eugenio Fava
- Director of BBMRI.it, University of Milano-Bicocca, Prof. Marialuisa Lavitrano
- Head of Office III, Directorate General of MUR, Dr. Michele Mazzola
- President of ARAN, Dr. Antonio Naddeo
- Director of the UdA-BIOBANK biobank, Prof. Assunta Pandolfi

**13:15-14:30 LUNCH**

14:30-16:00 NICO Technical-Scientific Committee (CTS)