

FRONTIER SCIENCE IN ITALY

Sala Marconi - Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) - Rome
21 April 2026

PROGRAM

09.00 – 09.30 Opening and Welcome

CI **Andrea Lenzi**, President Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy
Francesco Dotta, Director of the CNR Department of Biomedical Science, Italy
Gianluigi Consoli, Director General for Internationalization and Communication, Ministry of University and Research (MUR), Italy
Pavel Kabat, Secretary General HFSP

09.30 – 10.15 Keynote lecture

Are we really free? Novel insights from behavioral Neuroscience
Pietro Pietrini, IMT School for Advanced Studies, Lucca, Italy

10.15 – 10.45 Coffee break

10:45 – 12:15: Oral Session I

Moderator: **Marcella Devoto**, CNR, Italy

Using light to counteract central nervous system diseases: towards a light-powered brain

Fabio Benfenati, Istituto Italiano Di Tecnologia, Neuroscience & Smart Materials, Italy; and HFSP Council of Scientists Member representing Italy

Engineering Gene Circuits for Gene Therapy of rare genetic disorder

Diego di Bernardo, University of Naples Federico II and TIGEM, Naples, Italy

Mechanistic insights to advance hematopoietic stem cell-based gene therapies

Raffaella Di Micco, San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy, Milan, Italy

12.15 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16:00: Oral Session II

Moderator: **Fabio Benfenati**

Plasma membrane and organelle remodeling in morphogenesis in embryogenesis

Richa Rikhy, IISER Pune, India and HFSP Council of Scientists Member representing India

From exploring inter-organelle communication to transformation

Konstantinos Lefkimmiatis, University of Pavia and Veneto Institute of Molecular Medicine, Padova, Italy

CI *A Scientific Journey from Synapse Biology to Neuro-Immune Interactions*

Michela Matteoli, Humanitas University and Humanitas Research Hospital, Milan, Italy

Uncovering the mechanisms of decentralized vision in sea urchins: from a no-brain to an all -brain view

Maria Ina Arnone, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Naples, Italy

16.00 – 16.15 Closing remarks

Pavel Kabat, Secretary General HFSP

16.15 Reception

Speakers



Maria Ina Arnone



Fabio Benfenati



Diego di Bernardo



Raffaella Di Micco



Konstantinos Lefkimmiatis



Michela Matteoli



Pietro Pietrini



Richa Rikhy



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