



PhD Day – Health Science Macroarea

2nd Edition, 2026

10 Oct 2026 - Silos di Ponente, Polo Santa Marta, Verona

9.00- Welcome of the PhD students and teaching staff

9:30 - Institutional greetings by Director of the PhD School **V. Corbo**

9:45 – Invited lecture "**A scientific journey across three continents**" by **Peter J. Murray** Max-Planck-Institute for Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany, introduced by **V. Bronte**, Dept of Medicine, University of Verona

10:30 - Oral presentation of the research activities of third-year students- chaired by 2 PhD students

- Differential Activation of TLR8 Signaling Pathways in Human Neutrophils and Monocytes. **Matteo Giani**
- Not all TP53 mutations are the same in mantle cell lymphoma: Heterogeneity reveals distinct outcomes. **Carazzolo Elena.**

11:00 - Coffee break

11:15 - Oral presentation of the research activities of third-year students- chaired by 2 PhD students

- Patient-derived human midbrain organoids as a model to investigate altered RNA regulation in Parkinson's disease. **Maria Giusy Bruno**
- Trans-epithelial delivery and neuroprotective effect of adipose mesenchymal stem cell-derived extracellular vesicles across an in vitro nasal epithelium. **Mauro Caprioli**
- Translational retinal models for the study and treatment of inherited retinal dystrophies. **Carmen Longo**
- Don't Let It Roll: A Spatial Account of Visual Feedback Removal in Reach-to-Grasp"; **Elena Franchin**

12:30 - Light lunch and poster presentation of the research activities of first- and second-year students

14:00 - - Oral presentation of the research activities of third-year students- chaired by 2 PhD students

- Genomic profiling and phage-antibiotic combination activity against multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolated from people with cystic fibrosis. **Giulia Toccaceli**
- Exploring the molecular features, detection approaches and prevalence of Homologous Repair Deficiency in Human Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma. **Stela Golovco**
- SUPRA-papillary vs trans-papillary BILIary Stenting in Malignant perihilar stenosis (SUPRABILS): A Pilot Study” **Edoardo Poletto**
- Effects of automated insulin delivery systems on cardiovascular risk factors in children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes: **Valentina Mancioffi**
- Association between visceral adiposity index and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease in adults with type 1 diabetes mellitus: A multi-center cross-sectional study: **Elena Sani**

16:00 – Invited lecture "**Unlocking True Excellence - Beyond the Individual** " by **Tobias Degsell** former curator at the Nobel Prize Museum, introduced by **L. De Franceschi**, DIMI, University of Verona

16:45 - Award ceremony for the best oral and poster presentations: **V. Corbo- Peter J. Murray- Tobias Degsell**

18.30- Music and drinks

Organizing Committee of the PhD students

Invited speakers

Peter J. Murray is a permanent senior group leader at the Max-Planck-Institute for Biochemistry, where he moved in 2017 after 19 years at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Murray's laboratory is focused on immune regulatory events mediated by metabolic crosstalk, with a focus on ferroptosis in stressed malignant cells.



Tobias Degsell is one of Sweden's most sought-after keynote speakers. A former curator at the Nobel Prize Museum, he combines analytical precision and a solution-oriented mindset with global experience. Tobias helps organizations across Europe and beyond break free from conventional thinking to achieve sustainable excellence.



POSTERS

1. “Circulating and Extracellular Vesicle-Associated miR-223 in Aging and Assisted Brisk Walking Program: A Pilot Study”, **Michele Braggio**
2. “ACOT8 and HIV-1 protein Nef interplay has an impact on lipid metabolism and composition of the virus envelope that impairs infectivity”, **Carola De Martinis**
3. “The economic cost due to poor disease control in adult patients with neutrophilic asthma from the general Italian population”, **Marco Mantoan**
4. “Role of RNA-Binding Proteins in Regulation of maturation of selected neuronal mRNA: insights into Tau mRNA alternative splicing”, **Giacomo Menichetti**
5. “Redox Regulation of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in CFTR-Deficient Bronchial Epithelial Model”, **Asia Palmisano**
6. “Neuromodulation of the Prefrontal–Dorsal Raphe Circuit by Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation in Mice: Integrating Behavioral, Physiological, and Biochemical Outcomes”; **Alessandro Pigozzi**
7. “Bridging Gaps in Overlapping Symptoms in Functional Motor Disorders and Multiple Sclerosis: Prevalence, Prognosis, and Rehabilitation Effectiveness”; **Melania Fasoli**
8. “PGRN deficiency drives lysosomal dysfunction, neuroinflammation, and glutamatergic synaptic impairment in a Grn knockout mouse model of frontotemporal dementia”; **Chiara Bertasini**
9. “Neuroprotective potential of adipose mesenchymal stem cell-derived extracellular vesicles on damaged motoneurons: impact of cell source activation state”; **Davide Sganzerla**
10. “Multimodal Retrospective Study of the Visual Pathway in a Sample of Patients with Recent-Onset Suspected Multiple Sclerosis”; **Fabio Bonomi**
11. “Antidepressant deprescribing: methodological challenges of an ongoing randomized trial”; **Carolina Gottardi**

12. “Liver Transplantation from Elderly DCD Donors: Expanding Boundaries under prolonged warm ischemia conditions”, **Andrea Marchese**
13. “Image-Based Computational Assessment of Pulmonary Valve Replacement in Congenital Heart Disease”, **Erika Xhelo**
14. “The Clinical Value of Quantitative Echocardiography for Functional Mitral Regurgitation in Contemporary Heart Failure”, **Giorgia Alberti**
15. “Relationship between coronary microvascular dysfunction and left ventricular fibrosis at cardiac magnetic resonance in patients with idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. A sub analysis of the MICROREV DCM study”, **Leonardo Portolan**
16. “Longitudinal profiling reveals persistent myeloid alterations after sepsis recovery”, **Francesca Taddei**
17. “Implementation and Optimization of Open-ST for High-Resolution Spatial Transcriptomics”, **Benedetta Avesani**
18. “Dynamic immunosuppressive activity of circulating monocytes predicts response to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) in advanced NSCLC”, **Serena Eccher**
19. “Multiome-Based Characterization and AI-Assisted Detection of ecDNA in PDAC”, **Diego Rosa**
20. “Intraductal papillary squamous neoplasm (IPSN) of the pancreas: histological, molecular, and clinical characterization of a novel and distinct intraductal precursor of pancreatic cancer”, **Paola Mattiolo**
21. “DON’T STOP ME NOW. The readthrough compound CC-90009 is able to restore CFTR in PTC variant patients derived organoids”, **Chiara Mortali**
22. “Heavy metals and retinal degeneration: effects of pollutants on GCAP1 structure and function”. **Squarciotta Francesco**
23. “Mutant p53 drives glycolytic rewiring and protein lactylation in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC)”. **Piccoli Filippo**
24. “New strategies to obtain active oligomers of the antitumor ribonuclease onconase”. **Filippo Zuanetti.**

25. “Understanding the therapeutic impact of the activin-ligand trap RAP-536 on sickle cell disease”. **Tolunay Kavaz.**
26. “Multi-omic assessment of BOdy Composition in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer receiving Tyrosine kinase inhibitors (M-BOLT study): trial in progress”. **Adele Bonato**
27. “Effects of Repeated Intravenous Ferric Carboxymaltose Administration on Tissue Iron Homeostasis and Macrophage Iron Handling”. **Chesini Fabio**
28. “Metabolic dysfunction-associated fibrosis-5 (MAF-5) score outperforms the fibrosis-4 index for identifying clinically relevant liver fibrosis in type 2 diabetes”. **Riccardo Morandin**
29. “Vertebral Fracture Assessment Reveals a High and Underrecognized Fracture Burden in a Single-Centre Maintenance Dialysis Cohort”. **Matteo Gatti**
30. “Effects of Romosozumab on muscle mass, strength and physical performance in postmenopausal women with severe osteoporosis – a prospective observational study”. **Matteo Lombini**
31. “Quantitative CT Analysis of Pulmonary Disease In Systemic Sclerosis: Correlation Between Radiomics And Pulmonary Function Tests”. **Francesco Pollastri**
32. “Development and molecular characterization of patient-derived organoids from intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma”. **Sara Boggio**
33. “Molecular signatures of cancer-associated fibroblasts and tumor aggressiveness in poorly cohesive gastric cancer”. **Federica Filippini**
34. “Early detection of type 1 diabetes in at-risk pediatric subjects: from a single-center experience to a multicenter screening strategy”. **Elisa Morotti**
35. “Impact of body composition & nutrition on health & performance in athletes with disabilities”. **Baradhi Nour**
36. “Tailored pathways to active aging: a multicomponent framework for optimizing physical activity participation in healthy and pre-frail older adults”. **Sumaira Aslam**