

18° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE



Italian Conference
on **AIDS** and **Antiviral**
Research



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del Congresso

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2026
CATANIA
20|22 Sheraton Hotel
maggio Catania Four Points

**Embrace
Treatment**

**Empower
Prevention**

**Advance
Innovation**

Con il Patrocinio di



Università
di Catania



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DI ENNA "KORE"



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e da

INMI, Istituto Nazionale per le Malattie Infettive
Lazzaro Spallanzani IRCCS

ISS, Istituto Superiore di Sanità

AMCLI, Associazione Microbiologi Clinici Italiani

SIICA, Società Italiana di Immunologia, Immunologia
Clinica e Allergologia

SIMaST, Società Interdisciplinare per lo Studio delle
Malattie Sessualmente Trasmissibili

SITA, Società Italiana per la Terapia Antinfettiva
Antibatterica Antivirale Antifungina

SIV-ISV, Società Italiana di Virologia - Italian Society
for Virology

ANLAIDS, Associazione Nazionale per la Lotta
contro l'AIDS ETS

ARCIGAY, Associazione LGBTQIA+ Italiana APS

ARCOBALENO Aids ODV

ASA, Associazione Solidarietà AIDS-ODV

C.I.C.A., Coordinamento Italiano delle case alloggio
per persone con HIV/AIDS ETS

EpaC, Associazione EpaC ETS

LILA, Lega Italiana per la Lotta contro l'AIDS Onlus

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Checkpoint ETS

NADIR, Associazione Nadir ETS

NPS Italia, Network Persone Sieropositive APS

PLUS, Rete persone LGBT+ sieropositive APS

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www.icar2026.com

Media Partner



SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



Official Journal of the Conference:
Sexually Transmitted Infections (BMJ Group)
<https://sti.bmj.com/>

will publish an online Supplement containing the ICAR 2026 selected Abstracts, available from the end of May 2026

Sede Congressuale
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EpaC, Associazione EpaC ETS
Fondazione Villa Maraini ETS, Agenzia Nazionale di Croce Rossa Italiana per la cura delle dipendenze patologiche
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Care Colleghe e Colleghi,

È con grande piacere che vi diamo il benvenuto a **Catania** in occasione del **18° Congresso Nazionale ICAR**.

Il claim scelto per questa edizione - **Embrace Treatment, Empower Prevention, Advance Innovation** - rappresenta una vera e propria dichiarazione di intenti. Con queste parole abbiamo voluto mettere in evidenza i tre pilastri fondamentali del nostro impegno quotidiano: prevenzione, terapia e ricerca. Allo stesso tempo, il messaggio sottolinea il valore dell'alleanza tra la comunità ICAR, composta da clinici, ricercatori e la società civile: una sinergia che ha reso possibili i traguardi che oggi possiamo ricordare con orgoglio.

L'edizione di Catania assume inoltre un significato particolarmente simbolico: cade infatti a 40 anni dal primo trattamento con AZT in un paziente statunitense. Un passaggio storico che molti di noi hanno vissuto in prima persona. In questi decenni abbiamo assistito a un cambiamento straordinario: da una prospettiva di sopravvivenza di poche settimane a un'aspettativa di vita paragonabile a quella delle persone HIV-negative.

Tra le missioni fondamentali di ICAR vi è quella di preservare e valorizzare il patrimonio di conoscenze costruito nel tempo. La consapevolezza del percorso compiuto rappresenta infatti la base più solida per affrontare con lucidità le sfide attuali e future, dando voce ai nuovi bisogni e sostenendo la crescita delle giovani generazioni di ricercatori.

Nelle tre giornate congressuali, strutturate secondo un **approccio abstract-driven**, affronteranno temi centrali dell'infettivologia a livello globale con l'obiettivo di valorizzare la ricerca, stimolare nuove idee e favorire la condivisione di buone pratiche: infezione da HIV, epatiti ed epatopatie, infezioni sessualmente trasmesse, virus emergenti e riemergenti, vaccini, infezioni nell'immunocompromesso (virali, batteriche e fungine) e il rapporto tra infezioni e invecchiamento.

Un'attenzione speciale è dedicata alle nuove generazioni di medici e ricercatori, con iniziative volte a sostenere il loro sviluppo professionale e a rafforzare il senso di appartenenza alla comunità scientifica. In questo contesto si inserisce il **Premio TRIS**, istituito per valorizzare i migliori manoscritti di autori italiani pubblicati nel 2025 su riviste internazionali indicizzate, in linea con le tematiche del Congresso.

Desideriamo esprimere un sentito ringraziamento alla Segreteria Scientifica, al Coordinatore Abstract e ai Revisori, a tutta la Faculty, agli Organismi di Governo ICAR, a SIMIT, alle Associazioni di pazienti e di comunità, alle Istituzioni e alle Società Scientifiche, agli studenti, alle scuole ed alle giurie del Concorso RaccontART, all'Università degli Studi di Catania che ha riconosciuto il Congresso ICAR evento A.D.E. (Attività Didattiche Elettive) per il riconoscimento dei Crediti Formativi Universitari (CFU) e agli Sponsor, il cui supporto ha reso possibile la partecipazione di centinaia di congressisti.

Vi invitiamo a seguirci sul **sito ufficiale** e sui **canali social** per tutti gli aggiornamenti.

Buon Congresso a tutte e a tutti!

Nice to ICAR you!

I Presidenti



Paolo Maggi



Giuseppe Nunnari



Ilenia Pennini



Carlo Federico Perno

ORARI	AUDITORIUM	SALA ANTARES	SALA CASSIOPEA 1	SALA CASSIOPEA 2	SALA MIZAR
13.30-16.10	14.00-16.10 SPECIAL SESSION RaccontART Contest Awards: incontro con le scuole finaliste e premiazione	13.30-16.00 PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE Pharmacological tricks in HIV therapy management	13.30-16.00 PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE Advanced diagnostics: resistance, an old problem that is becoming new?	13.30-16.00 PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE A shared approach to cognitive and mental health issues in PWH	13.30-16.00 PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE Whole Lotta Heart: empowering cardiovascular prevention in PWH
	AUDITORIUM				
16.30-17.30	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM Long-Acting beyond chronicity: present, challenges and prospects in HIV				
17.30-19.30	ICAR 2026 OPENING SESSION Chairs: P. Maggi, G. Nunnari, I. Pennini, C.F. Perno 17.30-17.45 Introducing ICAR 2026: Chairs' welcome addresses 17.45-18.00 Authorities' welcome addresses Keynote Lectures Chair: C. Mussini 18.00-18.30 Mauro Moroni Memorial Lecture: "One step closer to a cure for HIV" O.S. Sogaard Chair: D. Rojas Castro 18.30-19.00 Giulio Maria Corbelli Memorial Lecture: "From Denver Declaration to dissent: reviving the political fire of HIV activism" S. Cecere, F. Schlöesser 19.00-19.15 TRIS (Top Researchers ICAR-SIMIT) Awards A. Castagna, C. Mussini 19.15-19.30 Closing remarks Chairs: P. Maggi, G. Nunnari, I. Pennini, C.F. Perno				

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

SYMPOSIUM - EXPERT MEETING

SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM

POSTER VIEWING

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - CLINICAL CASES

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

LUNCH TIME 12.30-14.30

ORARI	SALA PEGASO 2	SALA PEGASO 3	SALA ANTARES	SALA CASSIOPEA 2	SALA MIZAR
	ALL DAY POSTER EXHIBITION				
09.00 10.00	Keynote Lectures V. Cambiano P. Lampertico				
10.05 11.05	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM Shaping the future of HIV treatment and prevention: innovation that meets evolving individuals' needs				
11.10 12.10	SYMPOSIUM Optimizing antiretroviral therapy in Italy: innovation, implementation, and impact	SYMPOSIUM Liver disease at the viral-metabolic interface: what matters now	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Aging with HIV: survival is not enough		SHORT COMMUNICATIONS Expanding HIV prevention: PrEP, community services and real-world evidence
12.15 13.15	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM Is viral suppression enough? New opportunities for People Living with HIV (PLWH)	EXPERT MEETING Hepatitis/HIV screening strategies, early diagnosis, and HDV antiviral treatment			SHORT COMMUNICATIONS Monitoring the viral landscape
14.00 15.00	SYMPOSIUM Quenching or enhancing immune response in HIV care and cure	SYMPOSIUM Intersectionality among cancer and ageing among PLWH		ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Reaching the unreachable: community strategies for HIV testing and care	SHORT COMMUNICATIONS Shaping immune protection: vaccines, strategies across HIV and emerging infections
15.05 16.05	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM Therapeutic management of PLWH: from current clinical practice to future perspectives	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Evolving liver care in people with and without HIV: prevention, innovation, and long term outcome	EXPERT MEETING Antibiotic therapy: microbiological and clinical challenges for the treatment of in- and out- patients		
16.10 17.10	SYMPOSIUM Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic (CKM) syndrome: a new framework to manage metabolic health		16.10 - 17.35 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Virological insights shaping antiviral treatment	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Lives, stigma and risk: social realities of sexual health and prevention	SHORT COMMUNICATIONS Clinical insights of Long-Acting treatment
17.15 18.40	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Expanding PrEP horizons: gender, age and community engagement in HIV prevention	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS PrEP, doxyPEP and beyond: the new challenges of STI prevention	17.40 - 18.40 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Immuno and inflammatory markers in translational research	17.15 - 18.15 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Real World Evidence: insights from Italian Cohorts	

LUNCH TIME 12.30-14.30

ORARI	SALA PEGASO 2	SALA PEGASO 3	SALA ANTARES	SALA CASSIOPEA 2	SALA MIZAR
	ALL DAY POSTER EXHIBITION				
09.00 10.00	Keynote Lectures D.H. Barouch E. Girardi				
10.05 11.05	SYMPOSIUM Breaking barriers to PrEP and STI management: from testing to access to monitoring	SYMPOSIUM Immunization strategies in vulnerable hosts: from immunodeficiency to emerging infections	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Success comes at a cost: weight, lipids and metabolic risks in HIV	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Next Generation Sequencing (NGS): redefining management of chronic viral infections	
11.10 12.10	 SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM Clinical debate: optimizing HIV therapy for life long well being			SHORT COMMUNICATIONS Innovations in HIV care: services, networks and continuity	
12.15 13.15	SYMPOSIUM Understanding HIV's evolutionary past and future: implications in the control of HIV infection	EXPERT MEETING COVID-19 in 2026	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Exploring the unseen: Low-Level Viremia, Immune activation and ART outcomes	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Stigma, knowledge and behaviours in the era of HIV prevention	
14.00 15.00	SYMPOSIUM STI prevention and vaccinations: emerging evidence and evolving opportunities	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Living longer, facing more: cancer and the persistent burden of late HIV diagnosis	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Connecting the dots: cardiovascular, renal and metabolic risk in HIV	SPECIAL SESSION From Law 135/90 to Zero Transmission: Is Italy Ready for a New HIV, STIs and HPV Framework?	SHORT COMMUNICATIONS Oral ART from different perspectives
15.05 16.05	CLINICAL CASES Grand Round Clinical Cases	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Switch for a Long-Term Success	ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Long-Acting Cabotegravir/ Rilpivirine from different perspectives		ORAL COMMUNICATIONS Vaccine response and public health impact in PWH
16.10 16.35	SPECIAL SESSION ICAR 2026 Awards and closing remarks				

18° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE



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2026

**Embrace
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**PRE-CONFERENCE
ADVANCED COURSES**

Wednesday, MAY 20



PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE 13.30-16.00

SALA ANTARES

Pharmacological tricks in HIV therapy management

Chairs: Stefano Bonora (Torino), Massimo Cernuschi (Milano)

Understanding the clinical pharmacology of antiretrovirals (ARVs) remains essential for clinicians and PWVH, even with modern simplified HIV therapy. While newer agents like integrase inhibitors and Long-Acting formulations improve efficacy and adherence, they introduce important pharmacokinetic considerations, including absorption, metabolism, and elimination. Awareness of drug-drug interaction is critical in patients with comorbidities or polypharmacy.

13.30-13.50 **Principles of clinical pharmacology of ARVs: what we should know**

S. Bonora, Torino

Pharmacological tips to manage HIV therapy:

13.50-14.00 **If something goes wrong, think about interactions**

D. Cattaneo, Milano

14.00-14.10 **Discussion**

14.10-14.20 **Long-Acting agents: know the drugs to master the new paradigm**

M. Ferrara, Torino

14.20-14.30 **Discussion**

14.30-14.40 **Don't forget forgiveness**

D. Ripamonti, Bergamo

14.40-14.50 **Discussion**

14.50-15.10 **Final Discussion**

Role playing:

15.10-15.25 **Sex, Chems, and Rock'n'roll**

E. Caruso, Milano; M. Cernuschi, Milano

15.25-15.40 **Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) of ARVs: useful tool or superfluous?**

M. Ferrara, Torino

15.40-16.00 **Final Considerations**

S. Bonora, Torino; M. Cernuschi, Milano



PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE 13.30-16.00

SALA CASSIOPEA 1

Advanced diagnostics: resistance, an old problem that is becoming new?

Chairs: Daniele Armenia (Roma), Francesco Saladini (Siena)

Discussants: Bianca Bruzzone (Genova), Saverio Parisi (Padova)

The availability of new drug classes, together with the revival of older ones such as NNRTIs, has expanded opportunities for treatment. These promising strategies, apparently "easy to use" in PWVH recently diagnosed or virologically suppressed under high genetic barrier regimens, may however raise concerns when used in individuals with prolonged treatment exposure and archived resistance. In this context, the aim of the course is to provide an updated overview of resistance profiles associated with both older drugs retaining efficacy and newer agents, with particular attention to their genetic barrier. Building on these insights, the course will also address emerging diagnostic tools to detect archived and epistatic resistance, emphasizing their relevance for both laboratory assessment and clinical decision-making.

13.30-13.50 **Shifting resistance landscapes: the comeback of NNRTIs, the retreat of PIs, and the rise of INSTI challenges**

R. Gagliardini, Roma

13.50-14.00 **Discussion**

14.00-14.20 **Assessment of archived resistance and new technologies: sensitivity and APOBEC-related concerns**

M. Santoro, Roma

14.20-14.30 **Discussion**

14.30-14.50 **Epistatic resistance in HIV-1: a new dilemma for diagnostics and treatment?**

I. Vincenti, Roma

14.50-15.00 **Discussion**

15.00-15.20 **Is now the time for whole-genome sequencing in resistance assessment?**

R. Scutari, Roma

15.20-15.30 **Discussion**

15.30-16.00 **Final discussion and considerations**

D. Armenia, Roma; F. Saladini, Siena



PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE 13.30-16.00

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

A shared approach to cognitive and mental health issues in PWH

Chairs: Andrea Calcagno (Novara), Filippo Schlöesser (Roma)

Cognitive, neurological and neuropsychological domains have a great relevance for health and wellbeing: a high prevalence of disturbances in such areas have been reported in PWH. Objective of the pre-course is to discuss which symptoms may be relevant to discuss with healthcare workers and which holistic approach may be followed (including screening, diagnostic and treatment pathways).

13.30-13.50 **Opening: 3 pills for 5 Continents** A. Calcagno, Novara; P.M. Cinque, Milano; F. Schlöesser, Roma

PANEL: Discussants: A. Bergamini, Brescia; D. Caiano, Roma; P.M. Cinque, Milano; N. Frattini, Milano; S. Gerevini, Bergamo

13.50-13.55 **"Doctor, my husband often forget the names of our friends..."** F. Barrera, Torino

13.55-14.10 **Panel Discussion**

14.10-14.15 **"Doctor, I am always scared and I am not able to take decisions..."** B. Fioretti, Brescia

14.15-14.30 **Panel Discussion**

14.30-14.35 **"Doctor, after years of ARV I still have headache: could it still be the toxoplasmosis?"** G. Catalano, Milano

14.35-14.50 **Panel Discussion**

14.50-14.55 **"Doctor, I feel constantly tired. I struggle to wake up in the morning: should I consider getting some tests?"** G. Del Duca, Roma

14.55-15.10 **Panel Discussion**

15.10-15.15 **"Doctor, months ago I tried chemsex drugs at a party and now I feel I want them every weekend: is there anything I can do?"** D. Caiano, Roma

15.15-15.30 **Panel Discussion**

15.30-15.45 **Psychological impact of an HIV diagnosis during an acute life stressor: a personal perspective** N. Frattini, Milano

15.45-15.50 **Discussion**

15.50-16.00 **Final Considerations** A. Calcagno, Novara; F. Schlöesser, Roma

Wednesday, MAY 20



PRE-CONFERENCE ADVANCED COURSE 13.30-16.00

SALA MIZAR

Whole Lotta Heart: empowering cardiovascular prevention in PWH

Chairs: Giuseppina Giupponi (Como), Jovana Milic (Modena)

The pre-conference course "Whole Lotta Heart: Empowering Cardiovascular Prevention in People with HIV" aims to raise awareness among clinicians and the community, translating scientific evidence into practical action. The session will open with the most relevant findings from the REPRIEVE trial, a landmark study that is transforming our understanding of cardiovascular prevention in HIV. The following presentation will focus on cardiovascular risk assessment in daily practice, with attention to algorithms, the role of antiretroviral therapy, and imaging techniques. The next part will explore barriers to lifestyle change and statin acceptance, integrating the perspectives of both healthcare professionals and community representatives. The final talk will highlight the importance of psychological support and integrated care to make prevention strategies effective and sustainable. The session will be highly interactive. During each presentation, speakers will engage the audience with targeted questions, case-based discussions, and short opinion polls to stimulate participation and reflection. Community representatives will be actively involved in the dialogue, bringing the patient perspective and promoting more inclusive discussion on prevention strategies. This format aims to create a dynamic learning environment and to encourage collaboration between clinicians, researchers, and the HIV community. Through this exchange of evidence, experience, and perspective, the course will provide participants with updated knowledge and practical tools to improve cardiovascular prevention in people with HIV and to foster empowerment for both patients and healthcare providers.

13.30-13.35	Introduction of the course	G. Giupponi, Como; J. Milic, Modena
13.35-13.55	Here Comes the REPRIEVE: A New Era for Cardiovascular Health in PWH	P. Maggi, Enna
13.55-14.05	Discussion	
14.05-14.25	More Than Numbers: CV Risk Algorithms, Role of ART, and Imaging in Cardiovascular Risk Assessment in PWH	M. Menozzi, Modena
14.25-14.35	Discussion	
14.35-15.05	From Knowing to Understanding: Overcoming Barriers to Lifestyle Change and Statin Hesitancy in HIV	
	• Physician's perspective	G.V.L. De Socio, Perugia
	• Community perspective	G. Giupponi, Como
15.05-15.15	Discussion	
15.15-15.45	Facing Change Together: Psychological Support and Integrated Care for Cardiovascular Prevention in HIV	
	• Expert's perspective (psychologist)	S. Penon, Milano
	• Expert's and community perspective (psychologist)	A. Perziano, Torino
15.45-16.00	Discussion and final remarks	G. Giupponi, Como; J. Milic, Modena

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La Giuria Artistica

Giacomo Marchettini, Dirigente Rai Play

Arianna Ninchi, Attrice

Vincenzo Porcelli, Produttore cinematografico

Francesco Suriano, Scrittore di teatro, sceneggiatore e regista

Mario Soldaini, Giornalista

La Giuria Tecnico-Scientifica

Daniele Armenia, Saint Camillus International University of Health Sciences, Roma

Manuela Ceccarelli, Università degli Studi di Enna "Kore", Enna

Francesca Ceccherini Silberstein, Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

Andrea De Vito, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Sassari

Maria Mazzitelli, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Policlinico Universitario "Agostino Gemelli", Roma

Jovana Milic, Unimore, Modena

Angelo Roberto Raccagni, IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele, Università Vita-Salute, Milano

Antonio Russo, Università degli Studi della Campania "L. Vanvitelli" - Università degli Studi Link Roma

Emmanuele Venanzi Rullo, Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria G. Martino, Messina

La Giuria Community

Antonella Antonino, ASA, Milano

Enrico Caruso, Associazione Milano Checkpoint ETS, Milano

Giuseppina Giupponi, LILA, Como

Donatella Mainieri, ANLAIDS, Milano

Matteo Nardi, Plus, Bologna

Simona Nasta, NPS Sicilia, Palermo

Michele Ramadori, ANLAIDS, Umbria

Enrico Vazzana, Arcigay, Bologna

Veronica Walsh, LILA, Milano

Marco Zaffino, ARCOBALENO Aids ODV, Torino

Donatello Zagato, ASA, Milano





SPECIAL SESSION 14.00-16.10

AUDITORIUM

"RACCONTART" CONTEST AWARDS: INCONTRO CON LE SCUOLE FINALISTE E PREMIAZIONE

Chairs: Francesca Ceccherini Silberstein (Roma),
Adriano Lazzarin (Milano), Paolo Meli (Bergamo)

With an unrestricted educational grant from ViiV Healthcare

Giunto alla dodicesima edizione e destinato agli studenti degli Istituti Scolastici Superiori, il Contest artistico RaccontART rappresenta un'occasione unica e preziosa di formazione e informazione in tema di HIV ed Infezioni Sessualmente Trasmesse. Questa sessione è dedicata alla presentazione delle Opere finaliste in concorso, selezionate dalle Giurie Artistica e Tecnico-Scientifica. Al termine della Sessione, verranno premiati i primi tre classificati.

14.00-14.10 **Benvenuto dei Presidenti ICAR 2026**

P. Maggi, Enna; G. Nunnari, Catania;
I. Pennini, Padova; C. Federico Perno, Roma

14.10-14.20 **Introduzione e presentazione della Giuria Artistica e Tecnico-Scientifica**

F. Ceccherini Silberstein, Roma
P. Meli, Bergamo

14.20-15.45 **Presentazione delle Opere finaliste al Concorso a cura degli Istituti Scolastici**

15.45-16.00 **Premiazione dei primi 3 classificati**

F. Ceccherini Silberstein, Roma; A. Lazzarin, Milano; P. Meli, Bergamo

16.00-16.10 **Conclusioni**

F. Ceccherini Silberstein, Roma; A. Lazzarin, Milano; P. Meli, Bergamo

Gli Istituti Scolastici finalisti

IIS Tartaglia-Olivieri, Brescia
IIS Leonardo Da Vinci, Jesi (AN)
IIS Lorenzo Lotto, Trescore Balneario (BG)
Educandato Statale Maria Adelaide, Palermo
IIS G.G. Trissino, Valdagno (VI)
IIS Volterra-Elia, Torrette (AN)

Liceo Artistico Arcangeli, Bologna
IPS Ciro Pollini, Mortara (PV)
IIS Ettore Majorana, San Lazzaro di Savena (BO)
ISIS Zenale e Butinone, Treviglio (BG)
IIS Leonardo Da Vinci, Firenze
Scuola d'Arte Andrea Fantoni, Bergamo
IIS Caterina Caniana, Bergamo





SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 16.30-17.30

AUDITORIUM

Long-Acting beyond chronicity: present, challenges and prospects in HIV

Chairs: Antonella Castagna (Milano), Andrea Gori (Milano)

With an unrestricted educational grant from ViiV Healthcare

This symposium aims to discuss how Long-Acting therapies are already tangibly transforming the experience of chronic disease management across very different clinical settings, and how this evidence can also guide the transition in HIV care toward treatment pathways less constrained by daily therapy. Long-Acting formulations have been shown to reduce treatment burden, improve adherence and quality of life, stabilize drug exposure, and enable new care delivery settings. These operational and cultural transformations provide a framework for understanding how HIV is now facing a pivotal shift: not the immediate eradication of the disease, but a profound reconfiguration of its day-to-day management, more patient-centered and potentially more sustainable for healthcare systems. The objective of the symposium is to highlight the value of Long-Acting formulations in mitigating the impact of chronicity and promoting new models of care, demonstrating how they can become central elements in redesigning care pathways and outlining the organizational and operational conditions necessary to effectively integrate treatment management and prevention strategies.

16.30-16.50 **Overcoming chronicity: the Long-Acting revolution**

F. Concorelli, Novara

16.50-17.00 **Innovations in HIV: shaping the future of Long-Acting treatments**

A. Antinori, Roma

17.00-17.25 **Round Table led by the chairs:**

Moderators: A. Castagna, Milano; A. Gori, Milano

**Long-Acting therapies in HIV: current landscape,
future perspectives and impact
on treatment and prevention**

Discussants: A. Antinori, Roma; A. Cattelan, Padova;
A. Di Biagio, Genova; M. Farinella, Roma;
C. Mussini, Modena; S. Rusconi, Legnano MI

17.25-17.30 **Take-home messages**

A. Castagna, Milano; A. Gori, Milano



SPECIAL SESSION 17.30-19.30

AUDITORIUM

ICAR 2026 OPENING SESSION

Chairs: Paolo Maggi (Enna), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania), Ilenia Pennini (Padova), Carlo Federico Perno (Roma)

17.30-17.45

Introducing ICAR 2026: Chairs' welcome addresses

17.45-18.00

Authorities' welcome addresses

18.00-19.00

Keynote Lectures

Chair: Cristina Mussini (Modena)

18.00-18.30 Mauro Moroni Memorial Lecture

"One step closer to a cure for HIV" O.S. Søgaard, Aarhus DK

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has transformed HIV-1 infection into a manageable chronic condition, yet the viral reservoir decays so slowly that ART alone is unlikely to achieve cure within a lifetime, necessitating new safe and scalable therapeutic strategies. Current cure approaches broadly aim either to eradicate or inactivate the reservoir or to induce durable immune-mediated control. Although hematopoietic stem cell transplantation has cured HIV-1 in rare cases, its risks preclude widespread use, shifting focus toward immune-based strategies, particularly enhancing cytotoxic CD8+ T-cell responses associated with spontaneous control. While therapeutic vaccines have largely failed and many investigational agents—developed for HIV-1 or repurposed from oncology and hematology—have not significantly reduced the reservoir, recent trials show that some individuals can achieve partial or complete long-term viral control after ART interruption, supporting the possibility of cure. This talk will highlight the most promising approaches, including broadly neutralizing antibodies, identify populations most likely to benefit, address key remaining barriers, and examine biological mechanisms underlying sustained post-treatment control.

Chair: Daniela Rojas Castro (Madrid ES)

18.30-19.00 Giulio Maria Corbelli Memorial Lecture

"From Denver Declaration to Dissent: Reviving the Political Fire of HIV Activism" S. Cecere, Bologna; F. Schlöesser, Roma

Since its emergence in 1981, the HIV/AIDS crisis has radically reshaped the boundaries of scientific knowledge and human relationships. The epidemic abruptly interrupted the momentum of (homo)sexual liberation and was weaponized as a tool of moral panic and renewed control over sexuality—framed as "gay plague" or divine punishment. Yet within this devastation, unprecedented forms of grassroots organization and mutual aid arose. In 1983, the Denver Principles proclaimed "Nothing about us without us," inaugurating a generation of activists who fought not only for survival but for the dignity and future of those who might outlive them. While institutions struggled to respond, activists transformed HIV from a biomedical emergency into a powerful identity-shaping force for queer culture and the modern patients' rights movement. Forty-five years later, in the era of U=U, PrEP, and TasP, life expectancy and sexual lives have been profoundly redefined. But has the grammar of risk truly changed? Sexual liberation was never merely the absence of risk; it was the capacity to act, to experiment, to politicize desire, and to claim healthcare as a human right. In a time when we are told that HIV is no longer a death sentence, have we lost the political urgency to demand more? This lecture revisits the radical imagination of early HIV activism to ask: is biomedical success enough—or is it time, once again, to dissent?

19.00-19.15

TRIS (Top Researches ICAR-SIMIT) Awards A. Castagna, Milano; C. Mussini, Modena

The three best scientific publications of 2025 related to ICAR topics (HIV, STIs, and other Viral Infections), published by Italian authors in international indexed journals. The members of the Commission - composed of the ICAR Board and Congress Chairs - individually assessed the various scientific papers on the basis of the following criteria: Originality, Quality of the scientific journal, Methodological rigour, Innovativeness compared to the state of the art on the topic, Relevance to clinical practice.

19.15-19.30

Closing remarks P. Maggi, Enna; G. Nunnari, Catania; I. Pennini, Padova; C. F. Perno, Roma



KEYNOTE LECTURES 09.00-10.00

SALA PEGASO 2

Chair: Annamaria Cattelan (Padova)

09.00-09.30 **Scaling up PrEP and its effects on the HIV epidemic: from modelling evidence to Public Health Impact**

V. Cambiano, London UK

The efficacy of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP; whether oral or as injectable) is undeniable. Modelling studies have consistently demonstrated that the availability of PrEP can substantially accelerate the decline in new infections when combined with existing prevention tools such as testing and treatment and viral suppression in those living with HIV. They have suggested as well that the introduction of oral PrEP in populations at risk of HIV offers value for money, however for injectable PrEP to be cost-effective in most high-income countries the current cost of injectables needs to decline substantially. Now, real-world data have confirmed that scale up of PrEP leads to substantial reductions in HIV incidence, however implementation programmes indicated that real-world impact depends not only on PrEP efficacy and uptake but also on equitable access, sustained adherence, and integration with sexual health services. To achieve the full public health benefit predicted by models, high-income countries must address disparities in PrEP awareness and use, ensure service reliability and friendliness.

Chair: Raffaele Bruno (Pavia)

09.30-10.00 **HBV and HDV cure: shaping the future**

P. Lampertico, Milano

The field of novel antiviral therapies for HBV and HDV is evolving rapidly. In 2026, the first phase III study in HBV using functional cure (FC) as the primary endpoint will be presented and published. A finite 24-week course of antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) therapy has demonstrated significant functional cure rates 24 weeks after discontinuation of all treatments, including nucleos(t)ide analogues (NUCs). In parallel, several innovative anti-HDV strategies are under development. Currently, four to five phase III trials are ongoing, based on two distinct approaches: monoclonal antibody (mAb) monotherapy or mAb combined with small interfering RNA (siRNA). Preliminary data suggest that these regimens may offer greater efficacy than long-term bulevirtide (BLV) monotherapy, which remains the only approved treatment for HDV to date.



SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 10.05-11.05

SALA PEGASO 2

Shaping the future of HIV treatment and prevention: innovation that meets evolving individuals' needs

Chairs: Antonella Castagna (Milano), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania)

With an unrestricted educational grant from Gilead Sciences

This symposium aims to provide a comprehensive overview of how innovation in HIV prevention and treatment can be meaningfully aligned with the evolving needs of individuals. Although remarkable progress has been made in reducing new infections and improving Long-Term outcomes for people living with HIV, significant challenges remain in ensuring that prevention tools and therapeutic strategies are truly accessible, acceptable, and sustainable for the diverse populations they are designed to serve. The session is structured around the natural continuum of HIV care. The symposium will examine unmet needs in prevention, focusing on how Long-Acting approaches may help overcome persistent barriers to uptake, adherence, and persistence, particularly among individuals not adequately reached by current daily oral options. Next, the program focuses on therapeutic optimization in routine clinical practice, highlighting how modern regimens can offer durable efficacy and forgiveness, excellent Long-Term safety, and low interaction potential—ultimately supporting Long Term wellbeing across heterogeneous populations. It then looks ahead to future therapeutic pathways, exploring how emerging oral and Long-Acting strategies may further enhance personalization of care by accommodating individual preferences, clinical complexities, and lifestyle considerations. A closing moderated discussion will integrate insights from all three lectures, with the aim of connecting these elements into a coherent vision: one in which innovation supports a genuinely individual-centered approach to HIV prevention and treatment, enhancing both clinical outcomes and quality of life across the continuum of care.

10.05-10.20 **Rethinking HIV prevention: Long-Acting protection to address individuals' needs**

A. Antinori, Roma

10.20-10.35 **Optimizing today's therapy: meeting diverse patient needs for Long-Term benefits**

G.C. Marchetti, Milano

10.35-10.55 **Shaping the future: oral and Long-Acting options to address patient's needs**

O. Ogbuagu, New Haven USA

10.55-11.05 **Connecting the Dots: the individual at the center of HIV care**

Discussants:

A. Antinori, Roma; A. Castagna, Milano;
G.C. Marchetti, Milano; G. Nunnari, Catania
O. Ogbuagu, New Haven USA



SYMPOSIUM 11.10-12.10

SALA PEGASO 2

Optimizing antiretroviral therapy in Italy: innovation, implementation, and impact

Chairs: Sergio Lo Caputo (Foggia), Annalisa Perziano (Torino)

Despite significant advances in antiretroviral therapy (ART), optimizing treatment strategies for people with HIV (PWH) remains a dynamic challenge. The evolving therapeutic landscape now includes not only highly effective daily oral regimens but also innovative Long-Acting formulations that have the potential to transform adherence, PWH satisfaction, and healthcare delivery. However, real-world data, national policy frameworks, and implementation barriers continue to influence the pace of adoption and the equity of access to these new therapeutic options. This symposium brings together national experts to provide a comprehensive overview of the current Italian scenario and global trends in ART. The session will address the present "snapshot" of antiretroviral use and trends in Italy, discuss opportunities and challenges in scaling up Long-Acting therapies, and present clinical experiences in managing complex and unconventional treatment cases. Through these discussions, the symposium aims to stimulate critical reflection on how to best integrate innovation into daily practice and optimize Long-Term outcomes for PWH.

11.10-11.25	The Italian Landscape of antiretroviral therapy	A. De Vito, Sassari
11.25-11.40	Long-Acting ART: barriers to adoption and paths to scale	S. Nozza, Milano
11.40-11.55	Managing complex cases: unconventional use of antiretrovirals treatments	A. Giacomelli, Milano
11.55-12.10	Discussion	



SYMPOSIUM 11.10-12.10

SALA PEGASO 3

Liver disease at the viral-metabolic interface: what matters now

Chairs: Anna Maria Geretti (Roma), Giovanni Mazzola (Palermo)

Viral and metabolic determinants of liver injury increasingly coexist and interact, reshaping the epidemiology, pathogenesis, and management of liver disease. Despite major advances in prevention, acute viral hepatitis continues to occur both sporadically and within outbreaks in Europe, while chronic infections and metabolic dysfunction sustain a growing burden of steatosis, fibrosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. This session explores current priorities at the viral-metabolic interface, from the evolving epidemiology of acute hepatitis to breakthroughs in HBV cure research, the burden and emerging treatment options for MASLD in people with HIV, and the risk and clinical implications of HBV reactivation with evolving antiretroviral strategies. Through an integrated clinical and virological lens, the discussion will highlight mechanisms, therapeutic opportunities, and translational gaps that define what matters now in liver disease.

11.10-11.25	Epidemiologic trends in acute viral hepatitis in Europe	M.E. Tosti, Roma
11.25-11.40	MASLD in people with HIV: metabolic-inflammatory crosstalk and clinical and therapeutic aspects	G. Guaraldi, Modena
11.40-11.55	HBV reactivation in the context of HBV-inactive ART	M. Puoti, Milano
11.55-12.10	Discussion	



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 11.10-12.10

SALA ANTARES

Aging with HIV: survival is not enough

Chairs: Paola Maria Cinque (Milano), Giuseppe Vittorio Luigi De Socio (Perugia)

- 11.10-11.15 **Introduction** P.M. Cinque, Milano; G.V.L. De Socio, Perugia
- OC 1** 11.15-11.25 **Comprehensive Aging Profile in Elderly People Living with HIV**
Presenting Author: M.R. Petrara, Padova
- OC 2** 11.27-11.37 **Mapping of Psychosocial and Relational Determinants of Healthy Aging in People Living with HIV: The Italian Healthy Aging Survey**
Presenting Author: A. Castro, Milano
- OC 3** 11.39-11.49 **Polypharmacy and gender-specific vulnerability to cognitive and physical function among older people living with HIV: data from GEPPPO cohort**
Presenting Author: B. Fioretti, Brescia
- OC 4** 11.51-12.01 **Semaglutide in people with HIV: a metabolic health intervention toward the fourth 90%**
Presenting Author: M. Menozzi, Modena
- 12.03-12.10 **Conclusion** P.M. Cinque, Milano; G.V.L. De Socio, Perugia



SHORT COMMUNICATIONS 11.10-12.10

SALA MIZAR

Expanding HIV prevention: PrEP, community services and real-world evidence

Chairs: Marco Falaguasta (Padova), Emanuele Focà (Brescia)

- 11.10-11.13 **Introduction** M. Falaguasta, Padova; E. Focà, Brescia
- SC 1** 11.13-11.20 **Incidence and predictors of renal toxicity among Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis users in the Italian PrIDE Cohort**
Presenting Author: M. Menozzi, Modena
- SC 2** 11.22-11.29 **Prisons & community-led organizations: a fruitful collaboration to improve prevention interventions in detention facilities**
Presenting Author: S. Penon, Milano
- SC 3** 11.31-11.38 **Services and clinical pathways for HIV diagnosis for vulnerable populations: insights from a large HIV clinical center with hub-and-spoke network**
Presenting Author: M. Morosi, Milano
- SC 4** 11.40-11.47 **Prevalence and incidence of HCV infection in a cohort of Italian PrEP users: too low to be relevant?**
Presenting Author: A. Forni, Milano
- SC 5** 11.49-11.56 **First Delivery of Long-Acting Injectable (CAB-LA) Pre-Exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in a Community-Based Setting**
Presenting Author: V.L. del Negro, Roma
- SC 6** 11.58-12.05 **Determinants of asymptomatic and symptomatic incident chlamydia and gonorrhoea infections among PrEP users**
Presenting Author: S. Venturelli, Bergamo
- 12.07-12.10 **Conclusion** M. Falaguasta, Padova; E. Focà, Brescia



SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 12.15-13.15

SALA PEGASO 2

Is viral suppression enough? New opportunities for People Living with HIV (PWH)

Chairs: Vincenzo Esposito (Napoli), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania)

With an unrestricted educational grant from ViiV Healthcare

Given the high level of effectiveness of today's antiretroviral therapies, it is crucial to look beyond viral suppression and place broader dimensions of health for people living with HIV (PWH) at the centre. This Symposium aims to focus on three key areas: the value of adherence to ART and the potential consequences of non-adherence; the clinical and psychosocial benefits that Long-Acting therapies can provide; and organizational models that, through target restructuring, have already been shown to concretely improve the quality of life for many people. Exploring the role of adherence is essential not only for virologic control but also because non-adherence carries significant risks for individual health and public health alike. Long-Acting therapies can reduce the daily treatment burden, offer greater discretion, potentially improve the care experience and have positive impacts on psychosocial well-being. It is important to assess these benefits in light of the real needs of PWH and any barrier to access. Finally, there are organizational implementation models that – by redesigning care pathways, integrating hospital and community services and developing supportive tools – have extended the benefits of therapeutic innovations to a larger number of people, resulting in measurable improvements in quality of life. This Symposium seeks to share these experiences to promote the adoption of sustainable, person-centered solutions.

12.15-12.20 **Introduction**

V. Esposito, Napoli; G. Nunnari, Catania

12.20-12.35 **Adherence matters: from daily doses to lifelong continuity**

A.R. Raccagni, Milano

12.35-12.50 **Beyond the pills: Long-Acting clinical and quality of life outcomes?**

R. Rossotti, Verona

12.50-13.05 **People-first pathways: organizational models for integrated HIV care**

S. Di Giambenedetto, Roma

13.05-13.15 **Q&A led by the chairs and Take-home messages**

V. Esposito, Napoli; G. Nunnari, Catania



EXPERT MEETING 12.15-13.15

SALA PEGASO 3

Hepatitis/HIV screening strategies, early diagnosis, and HDV antiviral treatment

Chairs: Franco Maggiolo (Fabro TR), Massimo Puoti (Milano)

With an unrestricted educational grant from Gilead Sciences

Hepatitis D Virus and Cancer risk: the race from early detection to early treatment Chronic hepatitis D remains the most aggressive form of viral hepatitis, with a rapid progression to cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Despite this burden, HDV is still underdiagnosed, particularly among migrants and underserved populations, where gaps in screening and linkage to care persist. This Meet the Expert session will address the urgent need for systematic testing, early diagnosis, and timely initiation of effective therapies. By integrating epidemiology, screening strategies, and advances in antiviral treatment, the session aims to provide practical guidance to reduce the clinical impact of HDV and improve patient outcomes.

12.15-12.35 **Hepatitis and HIV testing: addressing care gaps for migrants and underserved.**

The "Test in the City" experience

P. Meli, Bergamo

12.35-12.55 **The silent threat of HDV: the critical need for early diagnosis**

A. Cattelan, Padova

12.55-13.15 **BLV for early HDV treatment: turning the tide on the most aggressive viral hepatitis**

P. Lampertico, Milano



SHORT COMMUNICATIONS 12.15-13.15

SALA MIZAR

Monitoring the viral landscape

Chairs: Daniele Armenia (Roma), Francesco Saladini (Siena)

12.15-12.18 **Introduction**

D. Armenia, Roma; F. Saladini, Siena

SC 7 12.18-12.25 West Nile Virus Infections in people living with HIV in Northern Italy: a sero-repository study

Presenting Author: G. Tiecco, Brescia

- SC 8** 12.27-12.34 **The Disappearance of Influenza B: Epidemiological Shift and Viral Competition during the 2025-2026 Season in Genoa, Italy**
Presenting Author: M. Lucente, Genova
- SC 9** 12.36-12.43 **Comparative diagnostic performance and referral burden of several anal cancer screening strategies among MSM undergoing first high-resolution anoscopy**
Presenting Author: A. Lazzaro, Roma
- SC 10** 12.45-12.52 **Persistent HPV16 infection despite immune recovery in people living with HIV: analysis of E6 and E7 genetic variability**
Presenting Author: S. Pauciullo, Roma
- SC 11** 12.54-13.01 **Low integrase resistance detected in people failing second generation INSTIs: findings from the ARCA Cohort**
Presenting Author: A. Russo, Roma
- SC 12** 13.03-13.10 **Characteristics and phylogenetic analysis of HIV-1 sub-subtype A6 circulating/epidemic in Italy**
Presenting Author: C. della Ventura, Milano
- 13.12-13.15 **Conclusion** D. Armenia, Roma; F. Saladini, Siena



SYMPOSIUM 14.00-15.00

SALA PEGASO 2

Quenching or enhancing immune response in HIV care and cure

Chairs: Miriam Lichtner (Roma), Giulia Carla Marchetti (Milano)

Since the beginning of HIV epidemic, immunopathogenesis has been considered a key factor for the understanding of the disease, but immunological therapeutical approaches are not been reliable until now. The early dysregulation of natural and specific immune response and inflammation are difficult to control, even in antiretroviral treated PWH. In the symposium, recent approaches will be discussed focussing on high specific, novel molecular target therapies combined or not with modern ART.

- 14.00-14.15 **(HIV-1)-specific broadly neutralizing monoclonal antibodies (bNAbs) for HIV care and cure: perspectives and hopes** G. Scarlatti, Milano
- 14.15-14.30 **T-reg cells in the immunopathogenesis of HIV: Clinical implications** C. Agrati, Roma
- 14.30-14.45 **Molecular targets to manage inflammation** A. Cossarizza, Modena
- 14.45-15.00 **Discussion**



SYMPOSIUM 14.00-15.00

SALA PEGASO 3

Intersectionality among cancer and ageism among PWH

Chairs: Antonella Cingolani (Roma), Ada Moznich (Milano)

As people with HIV (PWH) live longer due to effective antiretroviral therapy, ageing-related conditions such as cancer are becoming leading causes of morbidity and mortality. This symposium addresses the intersection between ageing, oncological burden, and social determinants such as ageism. Discussions will focus on priorities for cancer prevention and early detection, barriers to accessing standard treatments and clinical trials, and the impact of stigma and age-related bias on health outcomes in older PWH. Promoting an integrated, equitable approach to care is essential to improve longevity and quality of life in this growing population.

- 14.00-14.15 **Cancer burden in PWH: priorities for prevention and care** L. Ryom, Copenhagen DK
- 14.15-14.30 **Treatment challenges, access to standard treatments, and trial inclusion: the paradigm of HIV-associated lymphoma** A. Re, Mantova
- 14.30-14.45 **Missed opportunities: the impact of ageism on people aging with HIV** N. Polcek, Bruxelles BE
- 14.45-15.00 **Discussion**



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 14.00-15.00

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

Reaching the unreached: community strategies for HIV testing and care

Chairs: Daniel Pietro Cumia (Roma), Antonella d'Arminio Monforte (Milano)

14.00-14.05 **Introduction**

D.P. Cumia, Roma; A. d'Arminio Monforte, Milano

- OC 5** 14.05-14.15 **Leveraging harmonised and disaggregated data for stronger community-based testing responses: Insights from the COBATEST network**
Presenting Author: L. Fernandez, Badalona ES
- OC 6** 14.17-14.27 **The value of promoting hepatitis and HIV screening in high-prevalence populations: the "Test in the City" project**
Presenting Author: P. Meli, Bergamo
- OC 7** 14.29-14.39 **From regulation to implementation: a cross-country ecological analysis of HIV testing frameworks and late diagnosis in Europe**
Presenting Author: L. Bortolani, Roma
- OC 8** 14.41-14.51 **Characteristics of individuals tested for HIV within Community-Based Voluntary Counselling and Testing (CBVCT) activities in Italy (2019-2025)**
Presenting Author: P. Piselli, Roma

14.53-15.00 **Conclusion**

D.P. Cumia, Roma; A. d'Arminio Monforte, Milano



SHORT COMMUNICATIONS 14.00-15.00

SALA MIZAR

Shaping immune protection: vaccines, strategies across HIV and emerging infections

Chairs: Giulia Valeria Calvino (Nepi VT), Loredana Sarmati (Roma)

Discussant: Marco Distefano (Siracusa)

14.00-14.03 **Introduction**

G.V. Calvino, Nepi VT; L. Sarmati, Roma

- SC 13** 14.03-14.10 **HIV-CORE 007: A phase 1/2 randomized, placebo-controlled T-cell vaccine trial in adults living with HIV-1 with analytical treatment interruption**
Presenting Author: S. Dispiseri, Milano
- SC 14** 14.12-14.19 **An extracellular vesicle-based T cell vaccine platform against HIV-1 conserved antigens**
Presenting Author: M. Donnini, Roma
- SC 15** 14.21-14.28 **Baseline CD4 Count Influences HPV Vaccine Response in People Living With HIV: Two-Year Follow-Up**
Presenting Author: L. Ansaldo, Latina
- SC 16** 14.30-14.37 **Comparison of subcutaneous versus intradermal administration of MVA vaccine booster dose**
Presenting Author: V. Mazzotta, Roma
- SC 17** 14.39-14.46 **Vaccination coverage and adherence to vaccines in a territorial sexually transmitted infection (STI) clinic in Milan, Italy: the impact of an integrated on-site service**
Presenting Author: M. Morosi, Milano
- SC 18** 14.48-14.55 **Temporal Kinetics of Humoral and Cellular Immunity After Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for SARS-CoV-2 and Impact of Vaccination Timing: RENOIR study**
Presenting Author: M. Camici, Roma

14.57-15.00 **Conclusion**

G.V. Calvino, Nepi VT; L. Sarmati, Roma



SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM 15.05-16.05

SALA PEGASO 2

Therapeutic management of PWH: from current clinical practice to future perspectives

Chairs: Annamaria Cattelan (Padova), Andrea Gori (Milano)

With an unrestricted educational grant from MSD Italia

The purpose of this session is to explore how the therapeutic management of people living with HIV is evolving, from current clinical practice toward future treatment strategies. Particular attention will be given to the growing burden of comorbidities, especially cardiometabolic ones, and to the need for early, proactive intervention to prevent progression and Long-Term complications. Within this context, next-generation NNRTIs will be discussed as a key component of antiretroviral regimens, thanks to their favorable metabolic profile and their potential role in improving cardiometabolic health. In parallel, the session will address the emerging role of NRTTIs as a pillar of the new generation of ART, and how these innovations can support a more personalized, patient-centered approach to the care of people living with HIV.

15.05-15.25 **Comorbidities and HIV: why we need to act now**

P. Maggi, Enna

15.25-15.45 **Next-generation NNRTIs: a key ally in managing cardiometabolic comorbidities**

L. Calza, Bologna

15.45-16.05 **New frontiers in HIV management: NRTTIs as a pillar of nextgeneration ART**

A. Calcagno, Novara



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 15.05-16.05

SALA PEGASO 3

Evolving liver care in people with and without HIV: prevention, innovation, and long term outcome

Chairs: Giuseppe Strano (Catania), Valentina Svicher (Roma)

15.05-15.10 **Introduction**

G. Strano, Catania; V. Svicher, Roma

OC 9 15.10-15.20 **High diagnostic yield of repeated HCV screening in addiction services: compared findings from two large-scale campaigns in 2023 and 2025**

Presenting Author: A. Bilotta, Sassari

OC 10 15.22-15.32 **Vitamin D Status and Hepatic Steatosis in People with HIV: Evidence from Paired Measurements**

Presenting Author: L. Salmoni, Napoli

OC 11 15.34-15.44 **Chronic HDV infection is characterized by distinct profiles of HBsAg isoforms underlying different disease stages**

Presenting Author: I. Grossi, Roma

OC 12 15.46-15.56 **Long-term outcomes in liver transplant recipients: comparison between patients living with and without HIV infection**

Presenting Author: A. Cervo, Modena

15.58-16.05 **Conclusion**

G. Strano, Catania; V. Svicher, Roma



EXPERT MEETING 15.05-16.05

SALA ANTARES

Antibiotic therapy: microbiological and clinical challenges for the treatment of in- and out- patients

Chairs: Antonio Cascio (Palermo), Giusy Tiseo (Pisa)

With an unrestricted educational grant from Menarini

Bacterial infections represent the major emergency in the field of infectious diseases. This is due to the increased incidence of nosocomial infections, which places a burden on care in terms of mortality and disability and on the economy in terms of healthcare costs. The availability of new antimicrobial therapies is changing the management of gram-negative infections by offering new therapeutic opportunities for the management of increasingly "difficult" strains. On the other hand, from the point of view of antibiotic sensitivity, and antibiotic PK the availability of Long-Acting drugs is changing the treatment strategies for gram-positive infections, reducing the duration of hospitalisations and changing the profile of outpatient antibiotic therapy.

15.05-15.25 **How to manage nosocomial infections caused by Carbapenemases-Producing Enterobacteriaceae (CPE)**

M. Falcone, Pisa

15.25-15.45 **Long-Acting antibiotics in outpatient antibiotic therapy: clinical and real-life evidences**

M. Puoti, Milano

15.45-16.05 **Discussion led by the chairs**

A. Cascio, Palermo; G. Tiseo, Pisa



SYMPOSIUM 16.10-17.10

SALA PEGASO 2

Cardiovascular Kidney Metabolic (CKM) syndrome: a new framework to manage metabolic health

Chairs: Paolo Bonfanti (Monza), Manuela Ceccarelli (Enna)

Cardiovascular-Kidney-Metabolic (CKM) syndrome provides a framework to understand the interconnected risks of cardiovascular disease, kidney dysfunction, and metabolic disorders in people living with HIV. HIV infection, antiretroviral therapy, and chronic inflammation can amplify these risks, making early identification and integrated management essential. This approach emphasizes holistic, multidisciplinary strategies to optimize Long-Term health and reduce the burden of cardiometabolic complications in this population.

16.10-16.25 **Introduction: Frameworking CKM syndrome**

G. Guaraldi, Modena

TALK SHOW

16.25-16.40 **Balancing the Scales: Can GLP-1 RAs Redefine Weight Management in People Living with HIV?**

Focusing on obesity/weight gain (focusing on GLP-1 RA)

N. Squillace, Monza

16.40-16.55 **Breaking the Cycle: Addressing Bone Loss in People Living with HIV**

Focusing on Bone Health

M. Ceccarelli, Enna

16.55-17.10 **Healthy Hearts, Balanced Sugar: Navigating Cardiometabolic Risks in HIV**

Focusing on cardiovascular health and diabetes

V. Spagnuolo, Milano



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 16.10-17.35

SALA ANTARES

Virological insights shaping antiviral treatment

Chairs: Luna Colagrossi (Roma), Fabrizio Maggi (Roma)

Discussant: Francesca Ceccherini Silberstein (Roma)

16.10-16.15 **Introduction**

L. Colagrossi, Roma; F. Maggi, Roma

OC 13 16.15-16.25 **Eligibility for regimens containing Islatravir in the ARCA cohort in virologically suppressed people living with HIV**

Presenting Author: M. Menozzi, Modena

OC 14 16.27-16.37 **Timing of First Viral Blips Across Modern Antiretroviral Regimens: A Retrospective Analysis**

Presenting Author: C. Gioé, Palermo

OC 15 16.39-16.49 **Multidisciplinary assessment of the HIV-1 reservoir after switching from triple to dual antiretroviral therapy in virologically suppressed individuals, a prospective observational pilot study**

Presenting Author: L. Fiaschi, Siena

OC 16 16.51-17.01 **Characterisation of HIV-1 reservoir in subjects on long-acting therapy**

Presenting Author: A. Bergna, Milano

OC 17 17.03-17.13 **Human and HCMV-encoded microRNAs in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) of ART-treated People with HIV (PWH): correlation with HIV-1 replication and inflammatory markers**

Presenting Author: G. Rozera, Roma

OC 18 17.15-17.25 **CMV-RNA kinetics in allo-HSCT patients: optimizing viral surveillance during and after letermovir prophylaxis**

Presenting Author: C. Tramontozzi, Roma

17.27-17.35 **Conclusion**

L. Colagrossi, Roma; F. Maggi, Roma



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 16.10-17.10

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

Lives, stigma and risk: social realities of sexual health and prevention

Chairs: Michele Formisano (Taranto), Sonia Agata Sofia (Catania)

16.10-16.15 **Introduction**

M. Formisano, Taranto; S.A. Sofia, Catania

OC 19 16.15-16.25 **HIV care trajectories among transgender and cisgender migrants in a setting with strong community support: a 10-year monocentric study in Tuscany, Italy**

Presenting Author: M. Maruotto, Firenze

OC 20 16.27-16.37 **"Narrating to transform": stigma, coping, and the reshaping of life trajectories from diagnosis to disclosure among women with HIV**

Presenting Author: A. Soria, Monza

OC 21 16.39-16.49 **Chemsex Practices and Behavioral Determinants Among PrEP Users in the Italian PrIDE Cohort**

Presenting Author: C. Fusetti, Milano

OC 22 16.51-17.01 **Chemsex and MDPV: assessing needs related problematic chemsex to provide comprehensive services**

Presenting Author: A.M. Bianchi, Milano

17.03-17.10 **Conclusion**

M. Formisano, Taranto; S.A. Sofia, Catania



SHORT COMMUNICATIONS 16.10-17.10

SALA MIZAR

Clinical insights of Long-Acting treatment

Chairs: Teresa Bini (Milano), Annalisa Saracino (Bari)

16.10-16.13 Introduction

T. Bini, Milano; A. Saracino, Bari

- SC 19** 16.13-16.20 **Weight and Lipid Changes After Switching to Long-Acting Cabotegravir and Rilpivirine**
Presenting Author: G. Cologgi, Genova
- SC 20** 16.22-16.29 **Use of Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) as an Additional Tool to Evaluate Suitability of Long-Acting Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine Treatment and Tailoring Follow-Up**
Presenting Author: G. Cologgi, Genova
- SC 21** 16.31-16.38 **Virological efficacy and tolerability of the long-acting regimen with rilpivirine and cabotegravir: a quest for the ideal candidate**
Presenting Author: F. Bassani, Legnano MI
- SC 22** 16.40-16.47 **Life after long-acting therapy: what happens when CAB/RPV is discontinued?**
Presenting Author: M. Giurco, Genova
- SC 23** 16.49-16.56 **Safety of cabotegravir + rilpivirine long-acting regimen among PLWH with previous HBV exposure: preliminary results of the SCRIBE study**
Presenting Author: N. Bana, Milano
- SC 24** 16.58-17.05 **Impact of cabotegravir/rilpivirine on patient-reported outcomes: real-world data from a multicenter cohort**
Presenting Author: A. Carraro, Roma

17.07-17.10 Conclusion

T. Bini, Milano; A. Saracino, Bari



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 17.15-18.40

SALA PEGASO 2

Expanding PrEP horizons: gender, age and community engagement in HIV prevention

Chairs: Vito Leonardo del Negro (Roma), Davide Moschese (Milano)

Discussant: Chiara Iaria (Palermo)

17.15-17.20 Introduction

V.L. del Negro, Roma; D. Moschese, Milano

- OC 23** 17.20-17.30 **PrEP beyond 50: baseline profile and PrEP strategies of older users in the Italian PrIDE Cohort**
Presenting Author: A. Russo, Roma
- OC 24** 17.32-17.42 **Cumulative HIV vulnerability and PrEP engagement among cisgender women accessing a community-based testing service**
Presenting Author: L. Nekrasova, Milano
- OC 25** 17.44-17.54 **Identifying the Eligibility Gap for Long-Acting Injectable PrEP in the Italian PrIDE Cohort**
Presenting Author: D. Moschese, Milano
- OC 26** 17.56-18.06 **Proportion of days covered by Long-Acting Cabotegravir versus Oral PrEP in the Italian PrIDE Cohort**
Presenting Author: V. Mazzotta, Roma
- OC 27** 18.08-18.18 **Missed Opportunities for Doxy-PEP Use Among Individuals at Risk: A Cross-Sectional Study within the PrIDE Cohort**
Presenting Author: A. De Vito, Sassari
- OC 28** 18.20-18.30 **Characteristics of Cisgender and Transgender Women in PrIDE cohort, risk behaviours and stigma**
Presenting Author: G. Micheli, Roma

18.32-18.40 Conclusion

V.L. del Negro, Roma; D. Moschese, Milano



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 17.15-18.40

SALA PEGASO 3

PrEP, doxyPEP and beyond: the new challenges of STI prevention

Chairs: Pietro Morabito (Bologna), Fabrizio Benedetto Pulvirenti (Caltanissetta)

Discussant: Maria Aurora Carleo (Napoli)

17.15-17.20 **Introduction**

P. Morabito, Bologna; F.B. Pulvirenti, Caltanissetta

- OC 29** 17.20-17.30 **Incidence and predictors of first and subsequent bacterial sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among PrEP users in the Italian PrIDE Cohort**
Presenting Author: D. Farinacci, Roma
- OC 30** 17.32-17.42 **DoxyPEP remains underutilised to exert its full protection: data from a cohort of PrEP users**
Presenting Author: E. Caruso, Milano
- OC 31** 17.44-17.54 **Awareness of key prevention tools in sexual health: comparison of key groups from a cross-sectional survey during European Testing Week in Rome (Let's Test! Study)**
Presenting Author: G. Micheli, Roma
- OC 32** 17.56-18.06 **HIV burden and testing patterns among patients with sexually transmitted infections: a 30-year real-world analysis**
Presenting Author: M. Giuliani, Roma
- OC 33** 18.08-18.18 **Incident syphilis and immunovirological perturbations in virally suppressed people living with HIV: a real-world self-controlled cohort study**
Presenting Author: E. Zappulo, Napoli
- OC 34** 18.20-18.30 **Changes in MPOX clinical presentation across epidemic phases: a single-centre cohort study in Italy, 2022-2026**
Presenting Author: R.J. Steiner, Roma

18.32-18.40 **Conclusion**

P. Morabito, Bologna; F.B. Pulvirenti, Caltanissetta



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 17.15-18.15

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

Real World Evidence: insights from Italian Cohorts

Chairs: Giordano Madeddu (Sassari), Claudio Maria Mastroianni (Roma)

17.15-17.20 **Introduction**

G. Madeddu, Sassari; C.M. Mastroianni, Roma

- OC 35** 17.20-17.30 **Virological and Clinical Outcomes of PWH with and without Advanced HIV Disease and very high HIV-RNA at ART initiation: Data from the ICONA Foundation Cohort**
Presenting Author: A. Giacomelli, Milano
- OC 36** 17.32-17.42 **Durability of Bictegravir/Emtricitabine/Tenofovir alafenamide vs Dolutegravir-based single tablet regimens in a large Cohort of experienced PWH: the BIC-LASTING study**
Presenting Author: R. Gagliardini, Roma
- OC 37** 17.44-17.54 **Legacy ART in the modern era: who still receives outdated regimens?**
Presenting Author: A. Vergori, Foggia
- OC 38** 17.56-18.06 **Long-term effectiveness and tolerability of cabotegravir plus rilpivirine as a switch strategy in a multicenter Italian real-world cohort**
Presenting Author: A. Ciccullo, L'Aquila

18.08-18.15 **Conclusion**

G. Madeddu, Sassari; C.M. Mastroianni, Roma



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 17.40-18.40

SALA ANTARES

Immuno and inflammomology markers in translational research

Chairs: Luca Butini (Ancona), Sara De Biasi (Modena)

17.40-17.45 **Introduction**

L. Butini, Ancona; S. De Biasi, Modena

OC 39 17.45-17.55 **A 3D airway epithelium-monocyte co-culture model to assess the impact of CCR2 and CCR5 inhibition on SARS-CoV-2 replication and inflammatory responses**

Presenting Author: C. Antonucci, Roma

OC 40 17.57-18.07 **Ultra-low level soluble p24 production identifies an IP-10-dominant inflammatory signature linked to physiologic frailty and mortality risk in virologically suppressed people with HIV**

Presenting Author: M. Augello, Milano

OC 41 18.09-18.19 **Long-Term Follow-Up to 96 Weeks of Long-Acting Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine: Sustained Reduction of Immune Activation and Senescence in People living with HIV and CMV Co-Infection**

Presenting Author: M. Guardiani, Roma

OC 42 18.21-18.31 **Immunometabolic remodeling, not response magnitude, distinguishes acute from chronic HIV Infection**

Presenting Author: S. De Biasi, Modena

18.33-18.40 **Conclusion**

L. Butini, Ancona; S. De Biasi, Modena



KEYNOTE LECTURES 09.00-10.00

SALA PEGASO 2

Chair: Carlo Federico Perno (Roma)

09.00-09.30 **Novel vaccine platforms: lessons from HIV**

D.H. Barouch, Boston USA

In this talk, I will review the vaccine platforms that were developed and tested for candidate HIV vaccines and the unique challenges facing HIV vaccine development. I will then discuss how these platforms have been used successfully for other pathogens, including viral vector and mRNA platforms, with applications to ZIKV, SARS-CoV-2, and influenza. Finally, I will discuss current concepts in vaccine development, including the importance of mucosal immunity.

Chair: Carlo Torti (Roma)

09.30-10.00 **Projected trajectories of life expectancy in HIV: role of new and old disparities**

E. Girardi, Roma

The advent of combination antiretroviral therapy 30 years ago has dramatically changed the life trajectory patterns of HIV infection. In the pre-cART era the pattern was characterized by short survival, frequent opportunistic infections and AIDS-defining illnesses; high pill burden and toxicity even when ART is used; profound uncertainty and stigma. In the cART era the pattern was characterized by durable viral suppression becomes routine; survival extends toward normal life expectancy; the clinical burden shifts toward non-AIDS, age-related, and treatment-related comorbidities. The presentation will address this evolution and it will discuss the inequalities that lie behind the current heterogeneity of the current life trajectories of persons living with HIV.



SYMPOSIUM 10.05-11.05

SALA PEGASO 2

Breaking barriers to PrEP and STI management: from testing to access to monitoring

Chairs: Salvatore Cecere (Bologna), Barbara Suligoi (Roma)

Discussants: Andrea Antinori (Roma), Cristina Mussini (Modena)

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) continue to represent a significant public health burden, with increasing incidence observed across diverse populations. In parallel, the introduction of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) has substantially transformed the landscape of HIV prevention, offering highly effective biomedical strategies to mitigate transmission risk. Nevertheless, the success of these interventions depends not only on their efficacy, but also on equitable access and the rational allocation of healthcare resources. Accessible and timely STI screening plays a pivotal role in early diagnosis, treatment, and interruption of transmission chains. However, in the context of limited healthcare resources, screening practices must be optimized according to epidemiological evidence and tailored to populations at greatest risk. Such rationalization is essential to ensure clinical effectiveness, cost-efficiency, and sustainability, while preserving the fundamental principle of equitable access. Similarly, the broad implementation of PrEP remains a cornerstone of HIV prevention. Despite robust evidence of its efficacy, uptake continues to be hindered by structural, economic, and social barriers. The advent of novel PrEP modalities—including Long-Acting injectable formulations and alternative dosing strategies—represents a crucial advancement, with the potential to overcome existing barriers, improve adherence, and expand prevention to underserved populations. This conference will provide a forum for critical discussion of the dual challenges of expanding access while ensuring the rational use of STI screening and PrEP. By integrating clinical, epidemiological, and public health perspectives, the meeting seeks to promote evidence-based strategies that advance the effectiveness, equity, and sustainability of STI and HIV prevention.

10.05-10.20 **Scaling up HIV cascade testing across clinical and extrahospital contexts**

M. Maffeo, Milano

10.20-10.35 **Unequal access to HIV prevention: structural and social challenges in PrEP implementation**

A.R. Raccagni, Milano

10.35-10.50 **Consensus statement of the Italian Society for Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SIMIT) on clinical guidance for screening of bacterial STIs**

P.L.G. Vinti, Milano

10.50-11.05 **Discussion**



SYMPOSIUM 10.05-11.05

SALA PEGASO 3

Immunization strategies in vulnerable hosts: from immunodeficiency to emerging infections

Chairs: Nicoletta Frattini (Milano), Saverio Parisi (Padova)

Discussants: Pietro Colletti (Marsala TP), Pasquale Giuseppe Macrì (Arezzo)

One of the most complex and multifaceted legacies of the COVID-19 pandemic concerns the expansion of vaccine platforms. New technologies, particularly those related to mRNA vaccine platforms, have burst onto the scene of basic and translational research, offering new possibilities for the development of targeted vaccines against old unresolved infections and new emerging infections. Vaccine protection, in chronic conditions such as HIV and in immunocompromised individuals, provides clinical protection against agents and factors associated with clinical progression, with benefits for clinical status, quality of life, and survival. However, a complex and contradictory legacy of COVID-19 concerns the emergence of vaccine hesitancy in the population, the causes and consequences of which are being studied at the cultural and social levels. This is particularly true among high-risk individuals, such as those with immunodepression, for whom the benefits of vaccine protection are unparalleled. The emergence of vaccine hesitancy even in a population historically loyal to science and treatment, such as people living with HIV, must be carefully analysed and countered through alliances involving the scientific and social communities.

10.05-10.25 **Vaccine response and clinical protection to Varicella Zoster Virus in immunocompromised individuals:**

- Experience in people with HIV (PWH)

G.C. Marchetti, Milano

- Experience in other immunodepressed patients

M. Iannetta, Roma

10.25-10.40 **Developing new vaccine platforms for emerging infections:
the arbovirolos model (dengue and chikungunya)**

E. Nicastri, Roma

10.40-10.55 **Is there also vaccine hesitancy among persons living with HIV?**

M. Cernuschi, Milano

10.55-11.05 **Discussion**



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 10.05-11.05

SALA ANTARES

Success comes at a cost: weight, lipids and metabolic risks in HIV

Chairs: Dario Cattaneo (Milano), Gabriella d'Ettorre (Roma)

10.05-10.10 **Introduction**

D. Cattaneo, Milano; G. d'Ettorre, Roma

OC 43 10.10-10.20 **The choice of first-line ART class is not associated with differential weight gain in people who are already obese or overweight**
Presenting Author: L. Costacurta, Genova

OC 44 10.22-10.32 **Obesity at antiretroviral therapy initiation and long-term risk of cardiovascular disease, cancer, or death in people with HIV: a prospective cohort study**
Presenting Author: A. Giacomelli, Milano

OC 45 10.34-10.44 **Statin Therapy for Primary and Secondary Prevention in People With HIV: Gaps and Achievements in a Real-Life Setting**
Presenting Author: G. Torkjazi, Milano

OC 46 10.46-10.56 **Impact of Rosuvastatin vs. Atorvastatin on Insulin Resistance and Diabetes Mellitus in People with HIV**
Presenting Author: J. Milic, Modena

10.58-11.05 **Conclusion**

D. Cattaneo, Milano; G. d'Ettorre, Roma



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 10.05-11.05

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS): redefining management of chronic viral infections

Chairs: Guido Antonelli (Roma), Arnaldo Caruso (Brescia)

10.05-10.10 **Introduction**

G. Antonelli, Roma; A. Caruso, Brescia

- OC 47** 10.10-10.20 **Evaluation of a NGS Assay for detecting HIV1 proviral drug resistance mutations: association with total HIV-1 DNA levels and with historical genotype resistance test**
Presenting Author: T. Alice, Torino
- OC 48** 10.22-10.32 **Comparison between Next-Generation Sequencing and Historical Genotypic Resistance Testing at Virological Failure in ART-Experienced Individuals: Data from the ARCA Cohort and the Italian NGS Network**
Presenting Author: D. Armenia, Roma
- OC 49** 10.34-10.44 **Added value of RNA-based whole genome sequencing in viremic people with 4-class drug-resistant HIV: insights from the PRESTIGIO Registry**
Presenting Author: T. Clemente, Milano
- OC 50** 10.46-10.56 **Genetic diversity in hepatitis Delta antigen and ribozyme is associated with altered virological and biochemical markers and could help identify novel therapeutic targets**
Presenting Author: S. D'Anna, Roma

10.58-11.05 **Conclusion**

G. Antonelli, Roma; A. Caruso, Brescia



SPONSORED SYMPOSIUM 11.10-12.10

SALA PEGASO 2

Clinical debate: optimizing HIV therapy for life long well being

Chair: Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania)

Sponsored by Gilead Sciences

This symposium aims to provide a practical, evidence-based overview of HIV treatment optimization, aligned with the evolving needs of people living with HIV across different life stages and clinical contexts. While durable viral suppression is now routinely achievable, optimization increasingly requires sustainable, individualized strategies that support Long-Term health and daily life. The session is structured around key pillars of treatment optimization that commonly guide clinical decision-making, such as maintaining durable effectiveness supported by a high genetic barrier to resistance, ensuring treatment forgiveness in the context of real-world adherence, supporting Long-Term safety and tolerability, managing comorbidities and potential drug-drug interactions, and preserving simplicity and feasibility in routine clinical practice. Through a structured, decision-focused moderated discussion, the symposium will translate clinical evidence into practical considerations, highlighting the trade-offs, thresholds that shape everyday therapeutic choices. A core component of the symposium is an interactive panel format, enabling a dynamic exchange between faculty and audience. Short audience polls will capture real-time decision patterns, allowing the moderator and panelists to address uncertainty and distill clear take-home messages. By the end of the session, participants should leave with actionable insights to support clinically appropriate treatment selection, Long-Term management, and therapeutic optimization that reflects the priorities of people living with HIV.

11.10-11.25 **What are the key considerations for Long-Term Success in the treatment of HIV?** C.J. Cohen, Foster City USA

Panel discussion:

- 11.25-11.35 **From day one: setting the foundation for Long-Term Success** V. Mazzotta, Roma
- 11.35-11.45 **Treatment choices for a fast moving life** A. Giacomelli, Milano
- 11.45-11.55 **Healthy ageing, managing CV comorbidities** D. Canetti, Milano
- 11.55-12.05 **Beyond stability: optimizing therapy in Long-Term HIV infection** M.A. Carleo, Napoli
- 12.05-12.10 **Closing discussion** G. Nunnari, Catania



SHORT COMMUNICATIONS 11.10-12.10

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

Innovations in HIV care: services, networks and continuity

Chairs: Antonio Albanese (Messina), Laura Amelia Rachele Rancilio (Milano)

11.10-11.13 **Introduction**

A. Albanese, Messina; L.A.R. Rancilio, Milano

SC 25 11.13-11.20 **People diagnosed with HIV and in care in Italy in 2024: preliminary results from the ongoing third national survey - CARPHA3 project**
Presenting Author: P. Piselli, Roma

SC 26 11.22-11.29 **Searching for the denominator: preliminary findings from PRONTI project**
Presenting Author: G. Cruschelli, Pisa

SC 27 11.31-11.38 **EngageHIV: a multidisciplinary model for proactive re-engagement and prevention of loss to follow-up in PLWHA**
Presenting Author: M. Guastavigna, Torino

SC 28 11.40-11.47 **The role of an Integrated Multidisciplinary Care Model on Continuity of Care and Immuno-Virological Outcomes in a complex population living with HIV infection**
Presenting Author: D. Zaccà, Roma

SC 29 11.49-11.56 **Implementation of emergency department bundled testing for HIV, HBV and HCV using residual samples: the Progresso-T project**
Presenting Author: M. Leone, Roma

SC 30 11.58-12.05 **Trend of number of tests for HIV in Community-Based Voluntary Counselling and Testing (CBVCT) settings in Italy (2019-2025)**
Presenting Author: P. Piselli, Roma

12.07-12.10 **Conclusion**

A. Albanese, Messina; L.A.R. Rancilio, Milano



SYMPOSIUM 12.15-13.15

SALA PEGASO 2

Understanding HIV's evolutionary past and future: implications in the control of HIV infection

Chairs: Maria Santoro (Roma), Maurizio Zazzi (Siena)

Despite more than 40 years of research since the discovery of HIV, key aspects of the virus are still not fully understood. Further studies are needed to elucidate how HIV has adapted to humans and, crucially, how our immune system has evolved in response. A critical part of this defense involves restriction factors—intracellular human proteins that inhibit HIV replication. Understanding how these factors influence infection is vital for predicting outcomes and for exploring strategies that may enhance their protective effects. Furthermore, studying the evolution of HIV within a host provides a complete picture of its pathogenesis, guiding the development of new treatments to control or eradicate the virus from tissue reservoirs. To support these efforts, improving current diagnostic assays is essential for accurately assessing the HIV reservoir in both clinical and research settings.

12.15-12.30 **Host restriction factors in HIV: insights and therapeutic implications**

G. Poli, Milano

12.30-12.45 **HIV compartmentalization: insights and implications for treatment outcomes**

C.F. Perno, Roma

12.45-13.00 **Diagnostics challenges in the evaluation of HIV reservoir**

I. Vicenti, Roma

13.00-13.15 **Discussion**



EXPERT MEETING 12.15-13.15 COVID-19 in 2026

SALA PEGASO 3

Chairs: Giovanni Cenderello (Sanremo IM), Antonina Franco (Siracusa)

More than 5 years since the start of the pandemic, most of the severe COVID-19 burden falls upon immunocompromised patients who cannot mount an endogenous immune response after both vaccination and/or natural infection. And COVID-19 continues to threaten public health and health-care systems worldwide. Older individuals and people with comorbidities remain at greatest risk of progression to severe disease. COVID-19 poses a particular threat to people who are immunocompromised, who have impaired immune responses to promote viral clearance, leading to prolonged infection and an increased potential for both viral resistance and severe disease. Although COVID-19 vaccines have drastically reduced the risk of severe disease, hospitalisation, and death for most individuals, patients who are moderately to severely immunocompromised often have suboptimal immune response after vaccination. For these reasons, antiviral treatment is still necessary today for those at risk: current treatment guidelines from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) recommend that individuals with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 at high risk for progression to severe disease, which includes people with immunocompromising conditions, receive prompt treatment with the antivirals or with anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies if circulating variants are susceptible. This session will review more recent data from scientific research and the evidences in the real-world setting.

- 12.15-12.35 **Antiviral therapy against SARS CoV-2 infection today: advantages and opportunities** G. Di Perri, Torino
- 12.35-12.45 **Discussion**
- 12.45-13.05 **Managing COVID in immunocompromised patients** I. Gentile, Napoli
- 13.05-13.15 **Discussion**



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 12.15-13.15

SALA ANTARES

Exploring the unseen: Low-Level Viremia, Immune activation and ART outcomes

Chairs: Benedetto Maurizio Celesia (Catania), Diego Ripamonti (Bergamo)

- 12.15-12.20 **Introduction** B.M. Celesia, Catania; D. Ripamonti, Bergamo
- OC 51** 12.20-12.30 **Persistent low-level viremia is not associated with increased risk of serious clinical outcomes in the contemporary INSTI era: a time-updated analysis**
Presenting Author: G. Festa, Milano
- OC 52** 12.32-12.42 **GREENWOOD study: virologic control achievement switching from 2dr to 3Dr**
Presenting Author: R. Rossotti, Milano
- OC 53** 12.44-12.54 **Long-Acting Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine Beyond Viral Suppression: Effects on HIV Reservoir, Immune Activation and Senescence**
Presenting Author: L. Maddaloni, Roma
- OC 54** 12.56-13.06 **Two-Year Immunological and Neuroinflammatory Outcomes of Switching to Long-Acting Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine in PLWH**
Presenting Author: M.A. Zingaropoli, Roma
- 13.08-13.15 **Conclusion** B.M. Celesia, Catania; D. Ripamonti, Bergamo



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 12.15-13.15

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

Stigma, knowledge and behaviours in the era of HIV prevention

Chairs: Luciano Nigro (Catania), Stefano Patrucco (Torino)

- 12.15-12.20 **Introduction** L. Nigro, Catania; S. Patrucco, Torino
- OC 55** 12.20-12.30 **Knowledge reduces stigma: the results of the #cHIVuoleconoscere project**
Presenting Author: C. Pellegris, Bergamo
- OC 56** 12.32-12.42 **Effectiveness and sustainability of organisational models for delivering comprehensive sexuality education in Italian secondary schools: a two-year analysis, 2023-2025**
Presenting Author: A. Chinelli, Pisa

OC 57 12.44-12.54 **Comprehensive sexuality education in secondary schools 2025-2026**
Presenting Author: P. Testoni, Milano

OC 58 12.56-13.06 **Beyond diversity: The Impact of a Multi-Stakeholder Network on the Right to Health**
Presenting Author: I. Mercurio, Bergamo

13.08-13.15 **Conclusion**

L. Nigro, Catania; S. Patrucco, Torino



SYMPOSIUM 14.00-15.00

SALA PEGASO 2

STI prevention and vaccinations: emerging evidence and evolving opportunities

Chairs: Anna Maria Geretti (Roma), Stefano Rusconi (Legnano MI)

A symposium hosted by the journal
Sexually Transmitted Infections (BMJ Group)

Vaccination plays an increasingly relevant role in STI prevention, complementing behavioural and biomedical interventions. Hepatitis A and B vaccines remain established pillars of prevention for at-risk groups, while the population-level impact of HPV vaccination continues to expand. Emerging ecological and immunological data indicating a potential protective effect of MenB vaccination against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* have renewed interest in vaccine-based strategies amid rising incidence and antimicrobial resistance. The Mpox vaccination campaign, particularly among people living with HIV, has further highlighted both the opportunities and the operational challenges of implementing targeted programmes in response to evolving threats. As evidence develops, greater clarity is needed on how these vaccines can be integrated into routine and targeted STI prevention frameworks. This symposium will present current data, biological plausibility, and key research gaps, drawing on clinical, epidemiological, and public health perspectives to support rational and evidence-based vaccination strategies for STI prevention.

14.00-14.15 **The resurgence of hepatitis A in Europe**

B.M. Celesia, Catania

14.15-14.30 **Evidence for MenB protection against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae***

R. Rossotti, Verona

14.30-14.45 **Optimising Mpox vaccination for people living with HIV**

V. Mazzotta, Roma

14.45-15.00 **HPV vaccination in people living with HIV: are two doses sufficient?**

D. Konopnicki, Bruxelles BE



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 14.00-15.00

SALA PEGASO 3

Living longer, facing more: cancer and the persistent burden of late HIV diagnosis

Chairs: Bruno Santi Cacopardo (Catania), Sandro Mattioli (Bologna)

14.00-14.05 **Introduction**

B.S. Cacopardo, Catania; S. Mattioli, Bologna

OC 59 14.05-14.15 **Trends and risk factors for late HIV diagnosis in Italy from 2012 to 2024**
Presenting Author: V. Regine, Roma

OC 60 14.17-14.27 **More than doubled risk of virus-related non-AIDS-defining cancers in people with multidrug-resistant HIV: a matched multicohort analysis**
Presenting Author: T. Clemente, Milano

OC 61 14.29-14.39 **Trends in age at cancer diagnosis and cancer type distribution in people with HIV from 2008 to 2025**
Presenting Author: G. Loi, Milano

OC 62 14.41-14.51 **Real-world impact of IANS recommendations on anal cancer screening practices**
Presenting Author: E. Bruzzesi, Milano

14.53-15.00 **Conclusion**

B.S. Cacopardo, Catania; S. Mattioli, Bologna



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 14.00-15.00

SALA ANTARES

Connecting the dots: cardiovascular, renal and metabolic risk in HIV

Chairs: Andrea Marino (Catania), Vincenzo Spagnuolo (Milano)

14.00-14.05 **Introduction**

A. Marino, Catania; V. Spagnuolo, Milano

OC 63 14.05-14.15 **Independent predictors of major cardiovascular events (MACEs) in People Living with HIV (PLWH) before and after 2015: a matched case-control analysis**
Presenting Author: P.F. Salvo, Roma

OC 64 14.17-14.27 **Prevalence and long-term transitions of cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic syndrome stages in PWH**
Presenting Author: J. Milic, Modena

OC 65 14.29-14.39 **Endocrine and Metabolic Alterations in Aging PLWH with Low Bone Mineral Density**
Presenting Author: V. Bono, Milano

OC 66 14.41-14.51 **Statin use and tolerability in a multicenter Italian cohort of people with HIV**
Presenting Author: A. Bailoni, Siena

14.53-15.00 **Conclusion**

A. Marino, Catania; V. Spagnuolo, Milano



SPECIAL SESSION - ROUND TABLE 14.00-15.00

SALA CASSIOPEA 2

From Law 135/90 to Zero Transmission: Is Italy Ready for a New HIV, STIs and HPV Framework?

Chairs: Cristina Mussini (Modena), Filippo Schlöesser (Roma)

Discussants: Stefano Campo (Palermo), Anna Caraglia (Roma), Mauro D'Attis (Brindisi), Massimo Farinella (Roma), Laura Amelia Rachele Rancilio (Milano)

Law 135/90 was adopted 36 years ago during the most dramatic phase of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, as a response to a devastating public health crisis. It represented a historic milestone in the organization of prevention, education and access to care and assistance. In 2019, Hon. Mauro D'Attis reopened the political debate by proposing the development of new legislation together with other Members of Parliament. He invited community representatives to collaborate in shaping a renewed framework for HIV, STIs and HPV, integrating perspectives and needs that had not previously been fully addressed. The Pdl 218 calls on legislators and the Ministry of Health to clearly reaffirm their position and to outline concrete steps toward transforming the cultural and policy environment surrounding these conditions. At ICAR — where science, institutions and community meet — we expect not only an endorsement of these principles but also a clear action plan that reflects transparent political responsibility. The time for analysis has passed. The time to rebuild and recover the steps that Italy has lost must begin now.



SHORT COMMUNICATIONS 14.00-15.00

SALA MIZAR

Oral ART from different perspectives

Chairs: Maria Chiara Frasca (Catania), Roberta Gagliardini (Roma)

14.00-14.03 **Introduction**

M.C. Frasca, Catania; R. Gagliardini, Roma

SC 31 14.03-14.10 **Implementation of a same-day ART start model in a real-life setting: experiences from a clinical centre in Italy**
Presenting Author: G. Micheli, Roma

SC 32 14.12-14.19 **Long-term treatment dynamics and immuno-virological recovery in advanced ART-naïve people with HIV**
Presenting Author: A. Vergori, Foggia

SC 33 14.21-14.28 **Long-term Durability of BIC/FTC/TAF in Virologically Suppressed PWH in a Real-World Setting**
Presenting Author: F. Lombardi, Roma

SC 34 14.30-14.37 **12 Months Effectiveness and safety of switching to BIC/FTC/TAF in virologically suppressed people with HIV on any ARV-regimens including NNRTIs: a retrospective analysis (ESSENTIAL Study)**

Presenting Author: M.V. Cossu, Milano

SC 35 14.39-14.46 **Drivers of B/F/TAF discontinuation: reflecting strategy rather than failure or toxicity**

Presenting Author: V. Cogliandro, Monza

SC 36 14.48-14.55 **Persisting Adherence Challenges in HIV Treatment: Insights from a Tertiary HIV Clinic**

Presenting Author: E. Vania, Padova

14.57-15.00 **Conclusion**

M.C. Frasca, Catania; R. Gagliardini, Roma



CLINICAL CASES 15.05-16.05

Grand Round Clinical Cases

SALA PEGASO 2

Chairs: Antonella Castagna (Milano), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania)

The "Grand Round Session" devoted to Clinical Cases on HIV, STIs, and viral infections in the immunocompromised host will represent a unique opportunity for interactive discussion led by experts, and fostering the exchange of knowledge within the scientific community.

A Committee composed of the ICAR Presidents and Governing Board has selected six clinical cases from those submitted through the "Call for Abstract," based on the following criteria:

- a) relevance of the topic;
- b) clarity (precision, organization, and structure) of the case;
- c) identification of key messages relevant to clinical practice and research.

CC 1 15.05-15.12 **Not always AIDS-related: a case report of manganese toxicity mimicking neurological opportunism in a PWH lost to follow-up**

Presenting Author: A. Repishiti, Monza

CC 2 15.15-15.22 **Pregnancy in women with multidrug-resistant HIV: dream or reality?**

Presenting Author: T. Clemente, Milano

CC 3 15.25-15.32 **Intra-household transmission of Mpox: a five-case familial cluster including perinatal and pediatric involvement**

Presenting Author: F. Prataviera, Udine

CC 4 15.35-15.42 **CAR-T Therapy in a Person Living with HIV and Refractory DLBCL: Safety, Virological Control and Multidisciplinary Management**

Presenting Author: G. Formica, Palermo

CC 5 15.45-15.52 **Integrated multidisciplinary management of chemsex and HIV: a case report**

Presenting Author: A.M. Bianchi, Milano

CC 6 15.55-16.02 **Breakthrough HIV infection after 6 years of daily TDF/FTC oral PrEP with confirmed optimal adherence: a case report**

Presenting Author: N. Bana, Milano



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 15.05-16.05

Switch for a Long-Term Success

SALA PEGASO 3

Chairs: Cristina Gervasoni (Milano), Giuseppe Lapadula (Monza)

15.05-15.10 **Introduction**

C. Gervasoni, Milano; G. Lapadula, Monza

OC 67 15.10-15.20 **Reasons for discontinuation of single-tablet regimen rilpivirine/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (RPV/FTC/TAF) in the era of 2nd-generation INSTIs**

Presenting Author: D. Ripamonti, Bergamo

OC 68 15.22-15.32 **Clinical outcomes in PWH switching from oral combinations with dolutegravir (DTG) + lamivudine (3TC) or rilpivirine (RPV) to bicittegravir/emtricitabine/tenofovir alafenamide (B/F/TAF): data from the Italian ICONA Foundation Cohort (OPTIMIZE-BIC Analysis)**

Presenting Author: A. De Vito, Sassari

OC 69 15.34-15.44 **Tolerability and cardiovascular safety of DOR/3TC/TDF as a switch regimen after 144 weeks of observation in the DOROTEA study cohort**
Presenting Author: A. Ciccullo, L'Aquila

OC 70 15.46-15.56 **Switching antiretroviral therapy after weight gain: pro and cons from the ICONA Foundation cohort**
Presenting Author: N. Squillace, Monza

15.58-16.05 **Conclusion**

C. Gervasoni, Milano; G. Lapadula, Monza



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 15.05-16.05

SALA ANTARES

Long-Acting Cabotegravir/Rilpivirine from different perspectives

Chairs: Alberto Borghetti (Pisa), Emmanuele Venanzi Rullo (Messina)

15.05-15.10 **Introduction**

A. Borghetti, Pisa; E. Venanzi Rullo, Messina

OC 71 15.10-15.20 **Scaling long-acting cabotegravir/rilpivirine in routine HIV care: 48-Week implementation outcomes from the PROGRESS model**
Presenting Author: P.F. Salvo, Roma

OC 72 15.22-15.32 **Clinical complexity in people with HIV switching to CAB/RPV versus oral integrase inhibitor-based therapy**
Presenting Author: G. Loi, Milano

OC 73 15.34-15.44 **Intracellular pharmacokinetics and Inhibitory Quotient of Long Acting Cabotegravir and Rilpivirine in the clinical setting**
Presenting Author: M. Ferrara, Torino

OC 74 15.46-15.56 **Outcomes of cabotegravir-rilpivirine in key groups of people with HIV (PWH): data from the ICONA cohort**
Presenting Author: R. Gagliardini, Roma

15.58-16.05 **Conclusion**

A. Borghetti, Pisa; E. Venanzi Rullo, Messina



ORAL COMMUNICATIONS 15.05-16.05

SALA MIZAR

Vaccine response and public health impact in PWH

Chairs: Maria Luisa Cosmaro (Milano), Giovanni Francesco Pellicanò (Messina)

15.05-15.10 **Introduction**

M.L. Cosmaro, Milano; G.F. Pellicanò, Messina

OC 75 15.10-15.20 **From monitoring to impact: increased vaccination coverage in 2025 vs 2024 among people living with HIV in the Lombardy region after implementation of a vaccination coverage monitoring system**
Presenting Author: D. Cereda, Milano

OC 76 15.22-15.32 **Kinetics of humoral and cellular immune responses up to 3 years after MVA-BN vaccination**
Presenting Author: V. Mazzotta, Roma

OC 77 15.34-15.44 **Prevention of RSV in adults as a strategy to reduce antibiotic consumption and antimicrobial resistance in Italy**
Presenting Author: S. Occhineri, Pisa

OC 78 15.46-15.56 **T-cell mediated immune responses following recombinant HZ/su vaccine in people with HIV with different CD4+ T-cell count**
Presenting Author: V. Sala, Milano

15.58-16.05 **Conclusion**

M.L. Cosmaro, Milano; G.F. Pellicanò, Messina



SPECIAL SESSION 16.10-16.35

SALA PEGASO 2

ICAR 2026 Awards and closing remarks

Chairs: Paolo Maggi (Enna), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania), Ilenia Pennini (Padova), Carlo Federico Perno (Roma)

ICAR support and reward the young excellences of Italian research with special prizes announced and awarded during this Session.

16.10-16.20

ICAR 2026 Scientific Committee Awards

Paolo Maggi (Enna), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania), Ilenia Pennini (Padova), Carlo Federico Perno (Roma)

*Three prizes for the best **Basic, Clinical and Social Science Abstracts***



16.20-16.30

ICAR Call for Research 2025-2026

Antonella Castagna (Milano)

*Updates on the progress of the **ICAR-SIMIT Call for Research***



16.30-16.35

Closing remarks and ICAR 2027 announcement

Antonella Castagna (Milano), Paolo Maggi (Enna), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania), Ilenia Pennini (Padova), Carlo Federico Perno (Roma)

DIGITAL POSTER EXHIBITION

All posters can be viewed on the LED towers
located inside the Conference Center.



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to view the full list
of posters accepted
for the Conference

POSTER 4 YOU

The service provided free of charge for authors of accepted abstracts to create their poster and record their audio commentary. All posters are included on the **ICAR Poster4you USB pendrive** that participants can collect at the Gilead Sciences booth by presenting the coupon included in the congress bag.

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Digital Abstract Book

Available on the official ICAR website **www.icar2026.com**. It contains all accepted abstracts.

With an unrestricted educational grant from Gilead Sciences

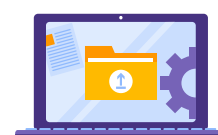
After the Congress, the official Journal of ICAR2026 – **Sexually Transmitted Infections (BMJ Group)** – will publish a special indexed issue entirely dedicated to the abstracts accepted at the Congress.



ICAR Web Repository

After the congress, the repository containing all scientific documentation (presentation slides, oral and short communications, clinical cases, posters, abstracts and the photo gallery) will be made available to congress participants on the official ICAR 2026 website **www.icar2026.com**.

With an unrestricted educational grant from ViiV Healthcare



By scanning this QR code, you will be able to directly access the official **Congress website (www.icar2026.com)** where, from the homepage, you can find all the information you may need: the scientific program, the program at a glance, abstracts, posters, the abstract book, special initiatives, and general information.

Participants are hereby informed that photographs and/or video recordings intended for online publication may be taken in certain areas where the conference and related activities will take place. Participants will be notified through dedicated signage.

Instructions for Speakers and Presenting Authors

It is not possible to bring presentations directly to the lecture hall. All presentations have to be handed over at the **Slide Centre Room** at least **2 hours before the session**.

Please ensure that you keep to the allocated presentation times.

A timer will be in operation throughout the presentation, and an audible signal will sound when the allotted time has elapsed. Any overrun will result in a reduction of the time available for discussion.

Oral Communications: Time allotted for each oral presentation is 10 minutes + 2 minutes for discussion (maximum of 8/10 slides).

Short Communications: Time allotted for each oral presentation is 7 minutes + 2 minutes for discussion (maximum of 6/7 slides).

Grand Round Clinical Cases: Time allotted for each oral presentation is 7 minutes + 3 minutes for discussion (maximum of 5 slides).

All **Speaker/Presenting Authors** are requested to start their presentations with a **Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest** slide.

Special Awards

TRIS, Top Researchers ICAR-SIMIT

The ICAR Board is pleased to announce the second edition of the **"TRIS (Top Researchers ICAR-SIMIT) Awards"**, aimed at recognizing the best Italian scientific publications published in 2025 in indexed international scientific journals on HIV, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and other viral infections in the following fields: Basic Science, Clinical Science, Epidemiology and Social Sciences.

The finalists and winners will be presented by the Presidents of ICAR and SIMIT and awarded on **May 20 during the Opening Session** (Auditorium Hall).



ICAR 2026 Scientific Committee Awards

The commitment of young researchers and Community representatives continues to be widely recognized by ICAR, not only through Scholarships, but also through special awards.

The Presidents and the Scientific Secretariat of the 18th ICAR Congress will present the **"Scientific Committee Awards"** to the **three best abstracts in Basic Science, Clinical Science, and Social Science**.

The winners will receive be awarded during the "ICAR 2026 Closing Session" on **Friday, May 22, 2026, from 4:10 PM to 4:35 PM** (Pegaso 2 Hall).



ICAR-SIMIT Call for Research 2025-2026

The winner of ICAR Call for Research 2025-2026 is: **Strengthening HIV continuum for Invisible populations: trans & cis women engaged in sex work (the SHINE Study)** by Fondazione ICONA, **Principal Investigator Davide Moschese**.

Updates will be presented on May 22, h. 16.20 – Room Pegaso 2.

Final results at ICAR 2027.



EXHIBITION AREA

- 1 **ViiV Healthcare**
 - 2 **GILEAD**
Creating Possible
 - 3 **MSD**
 - 4 **Anlaids**
 - 5 **GSK**
 - 6 **Abbott**
 - 9 **OraSure**
- 7 Meeting point **ViiV Healthcare**
- A Hospitality **GILEAD**
Creating Possible
- B Hospitality **ViiV Healthcare**
- D Led tower **ViiV Healthcare**
- E Led tower **Anlaids**

MULTIMEDIA AREA

N. 4 MULTIMEDIA TOTEM FOR POSTER EXHIBITION

YOU CAN ALSO FIND:

- ABSTRACT AND POSTER COLLECTION
- SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM
- PROGRAM AT A GLANCE
- PHOTO GALLERY



COMMUNITY VILLAGE

8 Sala Cassiopea 1



Piano -1



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