



# 2026 PhD Day of Istituto Superiore di Sanità

Monday January 19th, 2026

Aula Pocchiari

## Program:

### 9.30 >> Welcome and introduction session

**Luisa Minghetti and Alfonso Mazzaccara** - ISS PhD Committee

**Rocco Bellantone** - President of Istituto Superiore di Sanità

**Andrea Piccioli** - Director General of Istituto Superiore di Sanità

**Stefano D'Amelio** - Sapienza University Rome

### 10.00 >> Session I – Public health and clinical research

*Chair: Giovanni Capelli, Monica Fabiani*

**10.00** Bayesian Hierarchical spatio-temporal model for the analysis of interregional mobility of patients undergoing joint arthroplasty in Italy

**Adriano Cuccu**

**10.10** Estimation of morbidity indicators in population-based cancer studies: methodological developments

**Fabrizio Di Mari**

**10.20** Effects of Flavonoid and Fiber-Enriched Diets in Combination with GLP-1 Analogue Therapy on Metabolic Syndrome and Type 2 Diabetes: A Gender-Based Analysis

**Alessia Tammaro**

**10.30** The role of the clinician's subjective experience in the interaction with the patient: a pilot study on neurobiological correlates

**Giovanni Videtta**

**10.40** General discussion

### 11.00 >> Break (no catering)

### 11.10 >> Session II - Infection & immunity

*Chair: Anna Teresa Palamara (tbc), Matilda Hushi*

**11.10** Virus-host interplay in SARS-CoV-2 infection: gaining insights into innate immune responses induced by variant of concerns and mechanisms of immunopathogenesis by applying a human peripheral blood mononuclear cell-based in vitro model

**Giada Cairo**

**11.20** Validation of intrabodies against the E6 and E7 oncoproteins: a targeted therapeutic approach for the treatment of human papilloma virus 16 associated lesions

**Susanna Falcucci**

**11.30** Anti-tumoral effects of IL-33 and its role as combinatory role with Decitabine (5-AZA 2' deoxycytidine against metastatic melanoma: a multidisciplinary study involving in vivo, in vitro and "on-chip" approaches

**Francesco Noto**

**11.40** General discussion

### 11.50 >> Session III – Molecular and cellular biology

*Chair: Adriana Eramo, Allen Ambrose Sthephen*

**11.50** Consequences of microgravity on amyloid aggregate formation using transgenic lines of *Caenorhabditis elegans*

**Francesca Carmen Follo**

**12.00** MGST1 modulates PD-L1 expression promoting immuno-evasion in NSCLC

**Giuseppe Vulcano**



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12.10 General discussion

## 12:20 >> Break (no catering) and Poster Session

### 14.20 >> Session IV - Diagnostics and healthcare technologies

*Chair: Alessandro Palombo, Claudia Mangiapelo*

14.20 Development of horizontal analytical platforms to be used for monoclonal antibodies quality control  
**Virginia Ghizzani**

14.30 Development of quantitative data acquisition and analysis protocols for the application of MRS in experimental neurodegenerative diseases  
**Valentina Zecca**

14.40 Gold nanorods: synthesis, characterization, functionalization with radiopharmaceuticals and in vitro testing for applications in nuclear medicine  
**Ludovica Binelli**

14.50 General discussion

## 15.00 >> Break (no catering)

### 15.10 >> Session V – Drugs and treatments

*Chair: Elena Ortona, Corinna Perini*

15.10 Integrated proteomics and metabolomics approaches for the identification of novel molecular targets of drugs with antitumor activity  
**Sveva Germini**

15.20 Crucial role of CXCL4 and type interferon in early Systemic sclerosis and ways to block them via new pharmacological intervention by drug repositioning (Hydroxychloroquine) and experimental small molecules  
**Giuseppe Occone**

15.30 Development of organ-on-chip systems to study interactions between immune cells and tumors in response to drug treatment  
**Maria Rosaria Venturino**

15.40 General discussion

### 15.50 >> Session VI - Environment determinants for health

*Chair: Giuseppe Bortone, Teresa D'Amore*

15.50 Towards new approach methodologies for micro- and nanoplastics hazard identification  
**Chiara Ritarossi**

16.00 New approach methodologies applied for the assessment of genotoxic potential: case-studies with emerging environmental contaminants  
**Giorgia Maria Varalda**

16.10 Adverse effects of prenatal environmental insults on neurodevelopment: early interventions to reverse neurobehavioral abnormalities in murine models  
**Giorgia Macchioni**

16.20 General discussion

## 16.30 >> Conclusions and Considerations for the Future

*ISS PhD Committee and participants*