



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 Amburose 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 immunoevasion in NSCLC

Giuseppe Vulcano



2026 PhD Day of Istituto Superiore di Sanità

Monday January 19th, 2026

Aula Pocchiari

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 Ocone

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