



ALLIANCE
AGAINST
CANCER

11TH ANNUAL MEETING
**NEW TECHNOLOGIES
AND STRATEGIES
TO FIGHT CANCER**

NAPLES

September 10-12, 2026

Palazzo Pacanowski, Università Parthenope

ORGANIZED BY



ISTITUTO NAZIONALE TUMORI
IRCCS - Fondazione Pascale

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
PARTHENOPE



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thursday
DAY 1 / 10 September 2026

Preliminary program

AUDITORIUM

13.45 – 14.25

WELCOME ADDRESSES OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

14.25 – 14.30

OPENING REMARKS

Ruggero De Maria and Alfredo Budillon

14.30 – 15.15

OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE

Hallmarks of Cancer – therapeutic applications?

Douglas Hanahan

15.15 – 16.55

SESSION 01

FROM BIOLOGY TO SPACE: RETHINKING BIOMARKERS IN IMMUNOTHERAPY

Chairs: Paolo Ascierto, Paolo Dellabona, Anna Sapino

15.15 – 15.35

The cancer immune contexture in space and time

Jerome Galon

15.35 – 15.55

AstroPath: Astronomy Accelerates Next-Generation Pathology Biomarkers

Janis Taube

Selected Oral Presentations

Spatial transcriptomics and immune microenvironment evolution in breast cancer brain metastases: focus on macrophage distribution and polarization

Anna Tosi

Valproic acid enhances immune reprogramming in locally advanced rectal cancer: Insights from the VshoRTR3 trial

Maria Serena Roca

Spatial Transcriptomic Profiling of the lymph node Microenvironment in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

Giulia Notarpietro

Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Reshapes Systemic Immune Landscape in Locally Advanced Gastric Cancer and Associates with Pathological Response

Chiara Molinari

Discussion

16.55 – 17.20

Coffee break

17.20 – 19.00

SESSION 02

PROPER DATA GATHERING TO TREAT CANCER

Chairs: Giovanni Tonon, Pier Giuseppe Pelicci, Marilina Piccirillo

17.20 – 17.40

Towards a Federated European Genomic Infrastructure for Research and Healthcare

Serena Scollen

17.40 – 18.00

The Health Big Data Program

Pier Giuseppe Pelicci

18.00 – 18.20

A community to transform cancer outcomes research in Europe

Xose Fernandez

Selected Oral Presentations

Clinically Robust Deep Learning for Contrast-Enhanced Mammography: Multicenter Evaluation Across Convolutional Neural Network Architectures

Davide Pupo

GERSOM – Feasibility study for integrated genomic diagnosis of genetic risk and drug sensitivity in breast, ovarian and colorectal cancers

Camilla Nero

Tumor-only mutational signature profiling identifies DNA-damage states in gynecologic cancers

Andrea Gazzo

Discussion

19.00 – 20.30

Opening cocktail and Poster Session 1

AUDITORIUM

SESSION 03

in collaboration with AIOM e FICOG

08.45 – 10.25

IS CLINICAL RESEARCH IN CRISIS?

Chairs: Fabrizio Galliccia, Stefania Gori, Francesco Perrone

08.45 – 09.00

Patients' perception of the value of clinical trials

Elisabetta Iannelli

09.00 – 09.15

Europe caught in the global squeeze

Giuseppe Curigliano

09.15 – 09.30

The Italian scenario

Nicola Silvestris

09.30 – 09.45

To what extent does the market influence the development of new drugs?

Giovanni Abbadessa

09.45 – 09.53

2023 AIFA Call for Proposals: the study on hepatocellular carcinoma

Bruno Daniele

09.53 – 10.01

2023 AIFA Call for Proposals: the study on lung cancer

Francesco Passiglia

10.01 – 10.09

2023 AIFA Call for Proposals: the study on kidney cancer

Giuseppe Procopio

10.09 – 10.25

Discussion on AIFA Call for Proposals

10.25 – 10.45

Coffee break

PARALLEL SESSIONS

AUDITORIUM

10.45 – 12.25

NOVEL INSIGHTS IN CANCER: FROM MECHANISMS TO THERAPY

Chairs: Giovanni Blandino, Elena Di Gennaro

10.45 – 11.05

The gut microbiome to overcome immune checkpoint inhibitor resistance

Luigi Nezi

11.05 – 11.25

Turning “Cold” Tumors “Hot”: Novel Targets to Restore Immune Responses in Breast Cancer

Giannino del Sal

Selected Oral Presentations

miR-579-3p is a checkpoint for drug-tolerant persister cells in melanoma

Domenico Liguoro

A Novel Antibody-Aminobisphosphonate Conjugate for Cancer Immunotherapy:
Synergizing gd T-Cell Activation and PD-L1 Blockade

Lizzia Raffaghello

Immunological impact of Valproic Acid plus Cisplatin/Cetuximab on Head
and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma: clinical outcomes of V-CHANCE Trial and preclinical insight

Federica Iannelli

Targeting the immune contexture of the melanoma tumor microenvironment
through new combined epigenetic and immunomodulatory therapies

Alessandra Fragale

CtIP as a novel epigenetic modulator of epithelial cell identity

Lorenzo Ciacci

Discussion

ROOM 1

10.45 – 12.25

CLINICAL AND RESEARCH CHALLENGES IN SARCOMAS AND RARE TUMORS

Chairs: Katia Scotlandi, Giovanni Grignani

10.45 – 11.05

Targeting MYC in bone sarcoma: challenges and opportunities

Katia Scotlandi

11.05 – 11.25

The Evolving Sarcoma Landscape: Clinical Advances, Research Innovation, and New Insights for AYA Patients

Alexia Bertuzzi

Selected Oral Presentations

Patient-Derived Organoid-Based Tumor-Immune Co-Cultures in Biliopancreatic Cancers

Michele Zanoni

Boosting Chemotherapy Efficacy in Advanced Sarcomas with LOX-Engineered Lipid Nanovesicles - TRUST Project

Alessandro De Vita

Novel Therapeutic approaches for Ewing Sarcoma: Focus on CD99-null Extracellular Vesicles

Alessandra De Feo

Safe and effective targeting of HER2-low pediatric bone sarcomas by engineered CAR T-cells

Mariasole Aurigemma

pH-responsive chemogenetic control of photodynamic therapy in glioblastoma

Francesca Vacca

Discussion

ROOM 2

10.45 – 12.25

HEALTH CARE MODELS INNOVATION, REGIONAL ONCOLOGY NETWORK AND PATIENT-CENTRIC APPROACH IN CANCER

Chairs: Sandro Pignata, Francesco Schiavone, Francesco De Lorenzo

10.45 – 11.00

Comprehensive Cancer Care Networks: Strengthening Integrated Cancer Care

Ellen Griesshammer

11.00 – 11.15

Oncology regional network: governance and research

Sandro Pignata

11.15 – 11.30

Connecting Excellence: OECI's Legacy to Advancing Quality Cancer Care and Research in Europe and Beyond

Iwona Lugowska

11.30 – 11.45

What makes a health network sustainable?

Paolo Casali

Selected Oral Presentations

Analyzing the quality of cancer patient care over time: diagnostic delay and repeated clinical tests in Southern Italy (ValPeROC project)

S. Coluccia

Genetic Mutation Status and Psychological Distress in Breast Cancer:

Toward a Stratified Psycho-Oncology Triage Model

Daniela Belella

Giving Voice to Oncology Patients: Preliminary Insights from an Inductive Qualitative Content Analysis of Emotional Paper Slips

Keti Ballfusha

Discussion

12.25 – 14.00

Lunch

AUDITORIUM

SESSION 4

ACC-SIC Joint Session

14.00 – 15.40

MOLECULAR MECHANISMS UNDERLYING TUMOR EVOLUTION, RESISTANCE AND METASTASIS FORMATION

Chairs: Gustavo Baldassarre, Stefania Scala

14.00 – 14.20

Cancer persister cells strategies to survive ferroptosis: NMDARs and beyond
Giovanni Tonon

14.20 – 14.40

Mechanisms of response and resistance to anti RAS therapeutics in cancer
Sandra Misale

Selected Oral Presentations

Leveraging replication stress through WEE1 inhibition to overcome acquired resistance to EGFR blockade in colorectal cancer

Kristi Buzo

Ovarian cancer reprograms NK cells into a decidual-like phenotype through trogocytosis-mediated CXCR4 transfer

Giuseppe Guardascione

Redox-controlled mitochondrial restraint is a targetable vulnerability of metastasis-derived circulating tumor cells in breast cancer

Alberto Dalmasso

Decitabine and IL-33/ST2 axis synergistically overcome PD-1 resistance in melanoma by reshaping the tumor microenvironment and promoting cancer-immune crosstalk

Fabrizio Mattei

Subclonal lineage tracing coupled to single-cell transcriptomics reveals predetermined evolutionary trajectories and hidden fitness collapse states in glioma

Davide Ceresa

Discussion

PARALLEL SESSIONS

AUDITORIUM

15.45 – 17.25

GASTROINTESTINAL TUMORS

Chairs: Antonio Avallone, Carlo Calabrese

15.45 – 16.05

Early-Onset Colorectal Cancer: A Distinct Molecular Cancer?

Filippo Pietrantonio

16.05 – 16.25

Single-cell dissection of stress-shaped CAF heterogeneity in pancreatic cancer

Vincenzo Corbo

Selected Oral Presentations

Metabolic Plasticity of Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts Enables Stromal Reprogramming in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Francesca Romana Auciello

Repurposing of valproic acid and simvastatin to boost the efficacy of first-line chemotherapy in patients with pancreatic cancer via TGF- β , EMT and YAP modulation

Alessandra Leone

Uncovering the role of intrinsic PD-1 in the response to PD-1 blockade in hepatocellular carcinoma

Annapaola Montagner

Intermittent FOLFIRI plus Panitumumab (FOLFIRI-PAN) in unresectable RAS/BRAFV600E wild-type (wt) metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC): Survival Update and ctDNA Analysis from IMPROVE Study

Alfonso De Stefano

A novel TRAP1 isoform promotes metabolic stress adaptation in colorectal cancer: a potential biomarker and therapeutic target

Fabiana Crispo

Discussion

ROOM 1

15.45 – 17.25

OTHER TUMOR-TYPE SPECIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS

Chairs: Alessandro Sgambato, Antonio Rosato

15.45 – 16.05

Metabolic reprogramming drives immunotherapy resistance in HNSCC

Andrea Sacconi

16.05 – 16.25

From Organoids to Algorithms: Translational Platforms for Precision Oncology in Solid Tumors

Marianna Kruithof-de Julio

Selected oral presentation

Molecular Mechanisms of Primary Immunotherapy Resistance in Endometrial Cancer:

Uncoupling IFN- γ Signaling and antigen presenting machinery through PTEN

Federica Auletta

Explainable Dosiomics-Driven Machine Learning for Late Genitourinary Toxicity Prediction Following Robotic Prostate Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy

Rocco Mottareale

Up-regulation of RNA-binding protein Sam68 promotes HPV16 E6* α production and enhances cell proliferation in head and neck cancer

Andrea Cerasuolo

Uncoupled TERT expression and telomere maintenance in TERTp-mutated squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck region

Sara Amiranda

Real-world evaluation of the Bladder CARE™ assay for non-invasive diagnosis and monitoring of bladder cancer: the IRE experience

Matteo Allegretti

Discussion

ROOM 2

15.45 – 17.25

AI AND NOVEL TECHNOLOGIES IN CANCER RESEARCH AND CARE

Chairs: Roberto Orecchia, Raffaella Massafra, Marco Salvatore

15.45 – 16.00

Transforming Cancer Research and Care Through the European Health Data Space and AI-Driven Technologies

Fidelia Cascini

16.00 – 16.15

Application of AI in Cancer Care

Antonio Marra

16.15 – 16.30

New frontiers in particle therapy

Marco Durante

16.30 – 16.45

Data Management and AI Applications in Oncologic Imaging

Marco Aiello

Selected oral presentation

Weakly Supervised deep learning for automatic classification of normal mucosa, dysplasia, and carcinoma in oral tongue margin Whole-Slide Images

Alessandra Marfella

Use of a digital CZT-based camera and a dedicated Treatment Planning System for the voxel dosimetry in mCRPC patients treated with [177Lu]Lu-PSMA-617

Francesco Manna

Discussion

17.25 – 19.00

Coffee break and Poster Session 2

DAY 3 / 12 September 2026

PARALLEL SESSIONS

AUDITORIUM

08.45 – 10.25

BREAST CANCER

Chairs: Lucia Del Mastro, Michelino De Laurentiis

08.45 – 09.05

Predictive Molecular Pathology in Breast Cancer

Umberto Malapelle

09.05 – 09.25

Molecular characterization of invasive lobular breast cancer

Meritxell Bellet

Selected Oral Presentations

Efficacy of extended endocrine therapy in patients with early breast cancer according to luminal-like subtype and CTS5 score: exploratory analysis of the GIM4 trial

Chiara Molinelli

Risk-Adapted Follow-Up Strategies in Early Breast Cancer (EBC): A 2026 AIGOM consensus project

Stefania Gori

Targeting phosphatidylcholine metabolism enhances metformin efficacy in triple-negative breast cancer

Maria Elena Pisanu

Sacituzumab Govitecan Activates cGAS-STING Signaling in BRCAness Breast Cancer Models

Maria Carmen Ragosta

Targeting the HPA Axis: Early Psychological Prehabilitation and Stress-System Modulation in Breast Cancer Care

Laura Monti

Discussion

ROOM 1

08.45 – 10.25

HEMATOLOGICAL TUMORS

Chairs: Antonino Neri, Concetta Quintarelli

08.45 – 09.05

Advancing CAR-T Cell Strategies in Haematology Beyond the Commercial Models

Concetta Quintarelli

09.05 – 09.25

AI to accelerate translational and clinical research in hematology

Matteo Della Porta

09.25 – 09.45

Lymphoma Genetics at the Interface of Biology and Clinical Practice

Davide Rossi

Selected Oral Presentations

V-FLAI Challenges High-Risk AML: Integrated Genomic and Single-Cell Analysis of Response and Resistance

Giorgia Simonetti

Nuclear Respiratory Factor 1 (NRF1) promotes cell survival in Multiple Myeloma under proteasome inhibition therapy

Maria Chiara Cappelletto

B7-H3-Targeted CAR T Cells for Acute Myeloid Leukemia: Preclinical Evidence Supporting Clinical Translation

Pamela De Falco

SOX4/miR-335 Crosstalk Drives Progression and Therapy Resistance in Multiple Myeloma

Riccardo Mezzetti

Discussion

ROOM 2

08.45 – 10.25

INTEGRATIVE MULTI-OMICS APPROACHES FOR PRECISION ONCOLOGY

Chairs: Marco Seri, Paolo Marchetti

08.45 – 09.05

Multionics for drug repurposing

Maddalena Fratelli

09.05 – 09.25

Multionics Data: how AI can explain, decomplex and integrate?

Arsela Prelaj

Selected Oral Presentations

Integrated Genomic, Immune, and Clinical Profiling of Estrogen Receptor-Positive/HER2-Low Breast Cancer: Insights from the NextGIM Study

Barbara Cardinali

Multi-omics characterization of regorafenib response and resistance in patient-derived glioblastoma models

Anna Tesei

IL-15 enhances fitness and persistence of CAR.GD2 T-cells in high tumor burden neuroblastoma

Andrea Sarcinelli

Decoding the MHC Class II immunopeptidome of triple-negative breast cancer for the design of a multi-epitope mRNA vaccine

Chiara Provasi

Integrated Patient-Derived Models and Molecular Profiling to Identify Epirubicin Sensitivity in Soft Tissue Sarcomas (NEWDEAL project)

Silvia Vanni

Discussion

10.25 – 10.55

Coffee break

AUDITORIUM

SPECIAL SESSION IN COLLABORATION WITH SIBIL

10.55 – 12.35

LIQUID BIOPSY: FROM DISCOVERY TO CLINICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Chairs: Gennaro Ciliberto, Marzia Del Re

10.55 – 11.15

Clinical implementation of ctDNA testing

Nicola Normanno

11.15 – 11.35

Genotyping colorectal cancer in the blood

Alberto Bardelli

Selected Oral Presentations

Plasma metabolomics and cytokinomics profiling predict disease recurrence and survival in metastatic colorectal cancer patients after induction chemotherapy treatment

Susan Costantini

Longitudinal analysis of circulating tumor DNA somatic variants, tumor fraction, and methylation during neoadjuvant therapy in breast cancer

Serena Di Cosimo

CXCL12-loaded-hydrogel (CLG)-isolated CTCs predict worse outcome in ovarian cancer patients

Luigi Portella

Combining circulating tumor cell and circulating cell-free DNA analyses broadens clinical applicability of liquid biopsy in high grade serous tubo-ovarian carcinoma

Ivana Kurelac

Discussion

AUDITORIUM

12.35- 13.30

ACC PROJECT & ACTIVITIES

Chairs: Ruggero De Maria

Overview of ACC Projects

Lisa Licitra

Selected Oral Presentation

The EUonQoL-Kit: a unified European tool for harmonised quality-of-life assessment and inequality monitoring in cancer care

Cinzia Brunelli

13.30

CLOSING REMARKS

Giovanni	Abbadessa	ModeX Therapeutics	Weston	USA
Marco	Aiello	IRCCS SYNLAB SDN	Napoli	Italia
Paolo	Ascierto	IRCCS Fondazione Pascale	Napoli	Italia
Antonio	Avallone	IRCCS Fondazione Pascale	Napoli	Italia
Gustavo	Baldassarre	IRCCS CRO	Aviano	Italia
Alberto	Bardelli	IFOM Istituto Fondazione di Oncologia Molecolare ETS	Torino	Italia
Alexia	Bertuzzi	Istituto Clinico Humanitas	Milano	Italia
Giovanni	Blandino	IRCSS Istituto Nazionale Tumori Regina Elena	Roma	Italia
Alfredo	Budillon	IRCCS Fondazione Pascale	Napoli	Italia
Carlo	Calabrese	IRCCS CROB	Rionero in Vulture	Italia
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Gennaro	Ciliberto	IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori Regina Elena	Roma	Italia
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Lucia	Del Mastro	IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico San Martino	Genova	Italia
Marzia	Del Re	Saint Camillus International University	Roma	Italia
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Matteo	Della Porta	Istituto Clinico Humanitas	Milano	Italia
Paolo	Dellabona	IRCCS San Raffaele	Milano	Italia
Elena	Di Gennaro	IRCCS Fondazione Pascale	Napoli	Italia

Marco	Durante	GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy Ion Research	Darmstadt	Germany
Xose	Fernandez	DigiONE	Cambridge	UK
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Giovanni	Grignani	IRCCS FPO Candiolo	Candiolo	Italia
Douglas	Hanahan	Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research	Lausanne	Switzerland
Elisabetta	Iannelli	F.A.V.O.	Roma	Italia
Marianna	Kruithof-de Julio	University of Bern	Bern	Switzerland
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Iwona	Lugowska	Poland National Institute "Maria Skłodowska-Curie"	Warsaw	Poland
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Sandra	Misale	Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore	USA
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Marco	Seri	Università di Bologna	Bologna	Italia
Alessandro	Sgambato	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Roma	Italia
Nicola	Silvestris	Università di Messina	Messina	Italia
Janis	Taube	Johns Hopkins University	Baltimore	USA
Giovanni	Tonon	IRCCS San Raffaele	Milano	Italia

general inform

SCIENTIFIC AND GENERAL INFORMATION

CONFERENCE VENUE

PALAZZO PACANOWSKI

University of Napoli Parthenope
Via Generale Parisi, 13
Napoli

HOW TO REACH THE VENUE

Palazzo Pacanowski is located in the heart of Naples on Monte Echia hill and **does not have visitor car parking. Motorcycles only will be admitted upon availability.**

BY CAR

Nearby Parking

- Supergarage, Via Monte di Dio 25 - ph. 081 7643323 (walking distance limited availability)
- Parcheggio Morelli, Via Domenico Morelli 61A - ph. 081 19130220 1
- Parcheggio Chiatamone, Via Chiatamone 26 - ph 081 081 7642863 1 and 2
- Parking Plebiscito, Via S. Lucia, 38 - ph. 081 19541488 2

We suggest to park in nearby parking places but please check availability and reserve your place in advance.

¹ close to Parthenope University's free elevator service (Via Arcoleo 52)

² close to Monte Echia elevator (Via Santa Lucia 128)

ON FOOT

Once in Napoli if you overnight in the Seafront/Chiaia/Toledo/Municipio Districts the venue is easily reachable within walking distance as follows:

> you can use the Parthenope University's free elevator service located at Via Arcoleo 52, near the entrance to the Galleria della Vittoria to reach the ground floor of the building directly. Opening hours:

- Thursday September 10: from 08.00 to 21.30
- Friday September 11: from 08.00 to 20.30
- Saturday September 12: from 08.00 to 14.00

or

SCIENTIFIC AND GENERAL INFORMATION

> you can use the **Monte Echia panoramic elevator** located at Via Santa Lucia 128 for an ANM ticket costing €1.50. Once at the top, you can enjoy a spectacular view of Napoli and can reach the conference venue in just a few minutes. Walk towards Via Santa Lucia along Via Egiziaca a Pizzofalcone. At the intersection, turn left onto Via Nunziatella and continue straight towards Via Generale Parisi. Opening hours: from 07.00 to 22.00

or

By Metro Line 6, Chiaia Stop:

> Take the Metro Line 6 and get off at the recently open Chiaia stop, then walk for a few minutes along Via Monte Di Dio and turn on the right in Via Generale Parisi, 13. Opening hours: Mon to Fri: from 07.10 to 21.10 – Sat from 07.30 to 15.30

For all information on directions and public transportation to the conference venue, we recommend consulting the MAP at the following **QR Code**



OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

English. Simultaneous translation will not be provided.

BADGES

Upon registration you will receive your personal kit and badge. All participants and exhibitors are kindly requested to wear their badge throughout congress in order to be admitted to the scientific session and other scheduled activities.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

Certificate of attendance will be sent by email to all registered participants at the end of the Meeting.

general inform

SCIENTIFIC AND GENERAL INFORMATION

POSTER SESSIONS

Posters must be prepared in **size A0 (portrait)** and should be brought onsite printed at the participants' care.

The poster sessions will be held in the Refreshment area and will be divided into:

Poster session 1: Sept 10 from 19.00 to 20.30 (posters to be displayed from h. 15.00 and removed within h. 09.30 of Sept. 11)

Poster session 2: Sept. 11 from 17.30 to 19.00 (posters to be displayed from h. 11.00 and removed within h. 09.30 of Sept. 12)

A list of poster presentations will be available, indicating the day and the poster number for each author to display their poster.

The secretariat will not be held responsible for posters not removed by the authors within the specified timeframes.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Presenters are asked to bring their presentation on a USB flash drive and submit it to the **technical desk in the room assigned to each session** no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the session.

All screens are in widescreen (16:9) format.

AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Presentation rooms are equipped with projectors for computer-based presentations and PC (Office). Presentations should be prepared in PowerPoint or PDF. Presenters will be provided with a remote controller, with integrated laser pointer that can be used to advance slides in PowerPoint. Slides with movies (format .MOV or MP4) must be checked for playback on the laptop.

For Mac users: Power Point slides are normally compatible. If you use "Keynote" please take care that the file is converted in PDF.

The use of one's personal Laptop is not allowed.

INTERNET WIRELESS

Connection is available at the Meeting venue and the account for login will be provided onsite.

ONSITE SECRETARIAT

The secretariat will be open at the following day and time:

Thursday, September 10: from h. 12.00 to 19.00

Friday, September 11: from 08.00 to 19.00

Saturday, September 12: from 08.00 to 14.00

COFFEE BREAKS, LUNCH AND WELCOME COCKTAIL

They will be served according to the program schedule in the refreshment area Floor -1

general inform

SCIENTIFIC AND GENERAL INFORMATION

POSTER SESSIONS AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Please scan the QR code to access the list of Poster Presentations and the Abstracts book



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