Fondazione Ricerca
Fibrosi Cistica - ETS
italian cystic fibrosis research foundation

24th CONVENTION
of investigators in cystic fibrosis

12-14 November 2026
Camera di Commercio, Corso Porta Nuova 96 - Verona

FULL PROGRAM

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Thursday, 12 November 2026

	09:30 - 10:30	**Registration and poster display**
	10:30 – 11:30	**Introduction and greetings** Matteo Marzotto (President FFC Ricerca) Antonio Guarini (President LIFC Lega Italiana Fibrosi Cistica) Paolo Petralia (Director AOUI Verona) Vincenzo Carnovale (President SIFC Società Italiana Fibrosi Cistica) Carlo Castellani (Scientific director FFC Ricerca) Cecilia Cascone (Representative Consultation group FFC Ricerca)
	11:30 – 11:50	**Introduction to the 24th Convention of FFC Ricerca** Carlo Castellani (Scientific director FFC Ricerca)

	11:50 – 12:30 **SPECIAL LECTURE**	**Sex-Specific Innate Immune Networks of the Cystic Fibrosis Airway** Clemente J Britto (40') *Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine Department of Internal Medicine Yale University School of Medicine (USA)*

	12:30 – 12:50 **SESSION 1**	**FLASH PRESENTATION: NEW PROJECTS** **Chair:** Ermanno Rizzi
		1. Leoni Livia (FFC#4/2026) Existing drugs for new treatments against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (3') **2. Antonio Recchiuti, Tracey Bonfield** (FFC#6/2026) Rethinking the origin of inflammation in CF, starting from stem cells (3') **3. Carlos M. Farinha, Valeria Tomati, Andrea Armirotti** (FFC#1/2026) Studying CFTR RNA mechanisms to overcome nonsense mutations (3') **4. Giulia Degiacomi, Daria Bottai, Giovanni Delogu, Elena Petricci** (FFC#3/2026) Antibodies as carriers to target antibiotics against *Mycobacterium abscessus* (3') **5. Chiara Agostinis** (FFC#7/2026) Pregnancy and CFTR modulators (3') **6. Marco Mergiotti** (GMRF#1/2026) Enhancing CFTR trafficking and stability to improve cystic fibrosis

		therapies (3’)

	12:50 – 14:10	Lunch and Poster session

	14:10 – 15:40 **SESSION 2**	**IMMUNE RESPONSE AND AIRWAY DEFENCE** **Chair:** Clemente J Britto, Giulio Cabrini
		7. Moira Paroni, Clelia Peano (FFC#14/2023) Identification of molecular mechanisms which underpin the activation of pathogenic pulmonary Th1/17 cells in cystic fibrosis (10’) **8. Domenico Mattoscio** (FFC#12/2024) Targeting immune system to restrain cystic fibrosis airway inflammation (10’) **9. Antonio Recchiuti** (FFC#13/2024) Unraveling proresolving effects of CFTR modulators on lung inflammation and infection (20’) **10. Nicola Ivan Lorè, Lisa Cariani** (FFC#12/2025) Studying the immune system’s response to nontuberculous mycobacterial infections (10’) **11. Daniela Guidone** (GMRF#1/2024) Airway surface as a battleground against bacteria (10’) **12. Michele Genovese** (GMSG#1/2024) Alternative therapeutic target to restore the mucociliary clearance in CF (10’)
	15:20 - 15:40	Discussion

	15:40 – 17:10 **SESSION 3**	**TARGETING AIRWAY INFLAMMATION** **Chair:** Giovanni Taccetti, Tiziano Bandiera
		13. Giulio Cabrini, Marco Prosdocimi, Sjoerd Hak, Ilaria Lampronti, Adriana Chilin, Alessandra Bragonzi, Nicoletta Pedemonte (De-risking GY) Assessing the safety and clinical potential of GY971, an anti-inflammatory compound for cystic fibrosis (15’) **14. Mario Romano, Mauro Perretti** (FFC#15/2023) Melanocortins to control cystic fibrosis airway inflammation (20’) **15. Ilaria Lampronti, Adriana Chilin** (FFC#11/2024) GY971 as anti-inflammatory agent 2.0 (20’) **16. Roberto Plebani** (GMSG#1/2023) Developing a new respiratory 3D model as an innovative strategy

		to study the inflammation pathology in cystic fibrosis (20’)
	16:55 - 17:10	Discussion

	17:10 - 17:40	Coffee Break

	17:40 – 18:45 **SESSION 4**	**ADVANCING PHAGE THERAPY** **Chair:** Maria Cristina Lucanto, Cristina Cigana
		17. Federica Briani (FFC#16/2023) Facing resistance to therapeutic phages observed in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates from people with cystic fibrosis (20’) **18. Mariagrazia Di Luca, Laura Rindi, Andrea Moscatelli** (FFC#6/2024) Development of phage therapy for treating *Mycobacterium abscessus* lung infections in people with cystic fibrosis (20’) **19. Marco Cafora** (GMRF#1/2023) *Ex vivo* pig lung as a new model to study the efficacy of phage therapy against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in cystic fibrosis (10’)
	18:30 - 18:45	Discussion

Friday, 13 November 2026

	9:00 - 11:00 **SESSION 5**	**PERSONALIZED THERAPIES AND CLINICAL RESEARCH** **Chair:** Sonia Volpi, Valeria Capurro
		20. Renata Bocciardi (FFC#3/2023) Understanding the mechanisms behind the variable efficacy of CFTR modulators on the N1303K mutation on human primary nasal epithelial cells (20’) **21. Alberto Battezzati, Federico Alghisi, Stefano Costa** (FFC#14/2024) Long-term clinical outcomes of insulin secretory defects and effects of CFTR modulators (20’) **22. Cristina Cigana, Valeria Daccò, Barbara Kahl** (FFC#13/2025) Tracking lung infections via gut microbiota (10’) **23. Sonia Graziano, Alexandra Quittner, Rita Pescini, Cristiana Risso, Angela Sepe, Vito Terlizzi** (MindKids-CF) Survey on Mental Health in Children with Cystic Fibrosis (15’)

		24. Paola Iacotucci, Experts together for Andrea, RIFC (Over 40) Multicentre observational study of the Italian population with cystic fibrosis aged 40 years and older (10') **25. Nicoletta Pedemonte, Emanuela Pesce** (Next-CF) Nasal epithelium *ex vivo* theratyping for cystic fibrosis (10') **26. Giovanni Taccetti** (FFC Learning Network) Training programs for healthcare professionals from cystic fibrosis centres to share knowledge and strengthen team skills (10')
	10:35 - 11:00	Discussion

	11:00 – 11:40 **SPECIAL LECTURE**	**New research priorities for a changing Cystic Fibrosis** Marianne Muhlebach (40') *UNC Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC (USA)*

	11:40 - 12:00	Coffee Break

	12:00 - 13:10 **SESSION 6**	**STRATEGIES TO RESTORE CFTR FUNCTION AND ALTERNATIVE TARGETS** **Chair:** Vincenzo Carnovale, Mark E. Dumont
		27. Carlos M. Farinha, Valeria Tomati (FFC#2/2023) Exploring the cellular pathways to promote rescue of mutant CFTR protein in cystic fibrosis (20') **28. Margarida Amaral, Ines Pankonien, Emanuela Pesce, Emanuel Gonçalves** (FFC#1/2025) – *speaker Ines Pankonien* Damage and repair mechanisms in epithelial tissues in cystic fibrosis (10') **29. Giovanni Marzaro, Gergely Lukacs, Tamas Hegedus** (FFC#1/2024) Development of new potentiators active on (ultra)rare mutants of CFTR (10') **30. Paola Barraja, Luis J. V. Galietta** (Molecules 3.0 for CF) Advanced functional validation of CFTR new modulators and selection of lead candidates for further development (15')
	12:55 - 13:10	Discussion

	13:10 - 13:20	GROUP PHOTO AT AUDITORIUM

	13:20 - 14:35	Lunch and Poster Session

	14:35 - 15:50 **SESSION 7**	**THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR CFTR UNTREATABLE MUTATIONS** **Chair:** Maria Cristina Lucanto, Emilio Clementi
		31. Debora Baroni (FFC#2/2025) An antisense oligonucleotide-based strategy for the rescue of CFTR stop and splicing mutations (10') **32. John Lueck, Mark Dumont, Jeffrey Beekman, Sacha Spelier, Luis JV Galietta, Davide Cacchiarelli** (Restart-CFTR) – *speakers Mark Dumont and Joseph Porter* Overcoming nonsense mutations to restore CFTR protein production (15') **33. Luis J. V. Galietta** (FFC#4/2025) Pharmacological approaches to target nonsense mutations in cystic fibrosis (10') **34. Marianne Carlon, Anna Cereseto** (FFC#3/2025) Optimizing gene therapy and delivery systems for CF untreatable mutations (10') **35. Anna Cereseto, Sven Even Borgos, Luis J.V. Galietta, Sheref Mansy, Serena Zacchigna** (GenDel-CF) Tackling gene delivery in lungs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (15')
	15:35 - 15:50	Discussion

	15:50 - 16:55 **SESSION 8**	**NEW ANTIBACTERIAL TARGETS AND STRATEGIES** **Chair:** Marianne Muhlebach, Mario Romano
		36. Silvia Buroni, Antonio Coluccia (FFC#6/2023) Using a Virtual Screening approach to find new drugs against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* (20') **37. Francesco Imperi, Giorgio Giardina, Antonio Coluccia** (FFC#10/2025) Targeting *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* virulence factors to counteract infections in cystic fibrosis (20') **38. Maurizio Fraziano, Daniela Maria Cirillo** (FFC#8/2025) Development of a combined therapy with bioactive liposomes encapsulating antibiotics to treat *M. abscessus* infection (10')
	16:40 - 16:55	Discussion

	16:55 - 17:15	Coffee Break

	17:15 - 18:40 **SESSION 9**	**TARGETING NTM INFECTIONS** **Chair:** Giovanni Taccetti, Nicola Ivan Lorè
		39. Santiago Ramón-García, Daniela Maria Cirillo (FFC#9/2024) – *speaker Lara Muñoz-Muñoz* Understanding the contribution of Kaftrio to antimicrobial therapies against nontuberculous mycobacteria in cystic fibrosis (10') **40. Stefano Sabatini, Laura Rindi** (FFC#10/2024) Phenotypic medicinal chemistry approaches to identify new anti-*Mycobacterium abscessus* agents (20') **41. Federico Giannoni, Riccardo Manganelli** (FFC#9/2025) Identification of novel drug targets in persistent *Mycobacterium abscessus* in cystic fibrosis (20') **42. Maria Rosalia Pasca, Fabio Saliu** (FFC#11/2025) Development of a novel VOMG formulation for the treatment of *Mycobacterium abscessus* infections (20')
	18:25 - 18:40	Discussion

	20:00	SOCIAL DINNER at Palazzo Verità Poeta - Vicolo San Silvestro 6, Verona

Saturday, 14 November 2026

	9:30 - 11:20 **SESSION 10**	**BEYOND ANTIBIOTICS: NEW STRATEGIES AGAINST BACTERIAL INFECTIONS** **Chair:** Cesare Braggion, Alessandra Bragonzi
		43. Andrea Battistoni, Luigi Scipione (FFC#7/2025) Exploiting *P. aeruginosa*'s zinc dependency to potentiate antibiotic activity (10') **44. Maria Luisa Mangoni, Loretta Ferrera, Mattia Mori** (FFC#6/2025) Exploring the dual function of Esc peptides and their derivatives as CFTR potentiators and antimicrobial agents (10') **45. Marco Sette, Mattia Falconi, Marco Rinaldo Oggioni** (FFC#13/2023 + FFC#5/2026) Building simple molecules containing regions of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to stimulate the immune system against this pathogen

		(20') **46. Marta Mellini** (GMSG#1/2025) Unconventional approaches to combat cystic fibrosis bacteria (10') **47. Sandra Gemma, Arianna Pompilio** (FFC#7/2024) Targeting quorum sensing to fight *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections (20') **48. Annalisa Guaragna, Eliana De Gregorio** (FFC#8/2024) A combined therapy against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*-*Staphylococcus aureus* co-infections in cystic fibrosis (10') **49. Martina Rossitto, Marco Artini** (FFC#15/2024) Analysis of the evolution of virulence factors and antimicrobial resistance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in people with cystic fibrosis (10')
	11:00 - 11:20	Discussion

	11:20 – 11:40	Coffee Break

	11:40 - 12:55 **SESSION 11**	**UNDERSTANDING AND ENHANCING KAFTRIO EFFECTS** **Chair:** Carlo Castellani, Nicoletta Pedemonte
		50. Onofrio Laselva, Valeria Capurro, Enza Montemitro (FFC#4/2024+FFC#2/2026) A personalized repurposing approach based on antinflammatory/ antioxidant treatment to increase the efficacy of CFTR modulators (20') **51. Emilio Hirsch** (FFC#5/2025) - *speaker Marco Mergiotti* Characterization of protein kinase D1 as a novel regulator of CFTR trafficking and stability (10') **52. Maria Cristina Lucanto, Cesare Braggion, Cristina Cigana, Nicoletta Pedemonte** (Kaftrio in real life) Efficacy and safety of Kaftrio in real life: an observational multicenter Italian clinical study (15') **53. Lucilla Nobbio, Andrea Armirotti** (FFC#2/2024) Investigating the safety of elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor (ETI) exposure during pregnancy and early development (10')
	12:35 - 12:55	Discussion

	12:55 - 13:10	Closing remark

> To attend the Convention, register here. Please review this information before registering.