



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA



OSPEDALE POLICLINICO SAN MARTINO
Sistema Sanitario Regione Liguria
Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico

CONVEGNO MONOTEMATICO

Gruppo di Lavoro di Neuropsicofarmacologia, Società Italiana di Farmacologia, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, IRCCS Ospedale Policlinico San Martino

Social Dysfunctions: Exploring Mechanisms and Advancing Therapeutic Interventions

Alterations in social abilities have profound effects on individuals, their families, public health, and long-term life outcomes. Notably, different neurodevelopmental, neurological and psychiatric disorders have as core features impaired social cognition and have difficulties forming and maintaining social relationships. Additionally, many of these conditions are exacerbated by social stressors such as isolation or bullying, with reported cases of mental illnesses involving social deficits rising each year.

Understanding the neural underpinnings of social behaviors and their disruptions in psychiatric disorders requires a multifaceted approach. This workshop aims to address this challenge by bringing together young researchers, leading scientists, and key industrial partners. Through the integration of cutting-edge technologies, interdisciplinary expertise, and translational insights, our goal is to advance the field of social neuroscience and pave the way for innovative therapeutic strategies targeting social impairments in psychiatric and neurodevelopmental disorders.

OCTOBER 21-22, 2025

Sede: Ospedale San Martino, Castello Simon Boccanegra, Genova

Scientific Organizers:

Francesco Papaleo, Patrizia Campolongo & Marco A. Riva



PROGRAM

Tuesday October 21st

- 13:30-14:30 WELCOME RECEPTION AND REGISTRATION
- 14:30-14:45 *Opening and Congress Presentation:*
Antonio Uccelli, Francesco Papaleo, Marco A. Riva, Patrizia Campolongo
- 14:45-15:45 *Keynote Lecture:*
Ralph Adolphs (California Institute of Technology, USA)
"Social cognition, autism, and the human brain"
(Chair: **Francesco Papaleo**)
- 15:45-16:15 COFFEE BREAK 
- 16:15-17:15 *Oral Communications - SESSION #1*
(Chairs: **Marco Pistis & Valentina Ferretti**)
Anna Brancato (University of Palermo)
"Strain-dependent social dysfunction and divergent antidepressant responses under chronic stress: nucleus accumbens proteomic insights"
Marco Niello (Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia)
"Serotonergic modulation of social cognition in mice"
Carmela Belardo (Università della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli)
"Early Life Social Isolation Stress: Neuropsychiatric and Neurosensory Alterations and the Therapeutic Effect of S-Adenosylmethionine (SAME)"
Antonino Casile (University of Camerino)
"Single LSD administration attenuates nicotine intake and reverses social deficits in mice"
- 17:15-18:30 POSTER SESSION
- 19:30 Social Dinner at Collegio Emiliani, Genova Nervi

PROGRAM

Wednesday October 22nd

9:00-10:00	<i>Keynote Lecture:</i> Camilla Bellone (University of Geneva, Switzerland) "The Neurobiology of Social Motivation: From Adaptive Mechanisms to Dysfunction" (Chair: Patrizia Campolongo)
10:00-10:45	<i>Campfire session:</i> Diego Scheggia (University of Milano, Italy) "Methodological advancement to investigate social behavior" (Chair: Marco A. Riva)
10:45-11:15	COFFEE BREAK 
11:15-12:30	<i>Oral Communications - SESSION #2</i> (Chairs: Anna Maria Pittaluga & Lucia Caffino) Maria Bove (University of Foggia) "Preconceptional social isolation in female rats elicits cognitive and neurobiological alterations in their male adolescent offspring" Federica Maltese (National Research Council) "Prefrontal top-down control of social dynamics with sick conspecifics" Fabio Ruto (Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele) "Impact of electroconvulsive therapy on glutamatergic system in a model of chronic social defeat stress" Alessandra Lodi (University of Turin) "Fragile X Syndrome: Maternal Care as a Determinant of Social and Behavioral Dysfunction" Veronica Begni (IRCCS San Giovanni di Dio Fatebenefratelli) "Adolescent social behaviour alterations following prenatal stress: from vulnerability and resilience to acute challenge reactivity"
12:30-13:00	CONCLUDING CEREMONY AND AWARDS
13:00	Farewell lunch

With the unrestricted contribution of:



**Università
di Genova**

DIFAR DIPARTIMENTO
DI FARMACIA

2B IOLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS



ugo basile®
YOUR COMPANION IN
DISCOVERY SINCE 1963