PROGRAM

Thursday, 29 October 2026

13.30 – 14.30	Registration of Participants
14.30 – 15.00	Opening Ceremony and Institutional Welcome Addresses
SESSION I	**Chairs**: M. Viola – N. Gagliano
15.00 – 15.40	Opening Lecture Elda Tagliabue (Istituto Tumori Milano) **"Extracellular matrix Dynamic in Breast Cancer"**
15.40 – 16.00	E. Longhi *(Istituto di ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS)* **"ECM-driven resistance to endocrine therapy in ER+ breast cancer"**
16.00 – 16.20	Y. Said *(Università di Siena)* **"EXT-1 and HSPGs Expression Increases with Increased Agressiveness in Both Breast Cancer Patients and Human Breast Cancer Cell lines"**
16.20 – 16.40	L. Depau *(Università di Siena)* **"Role of Syndecan 4 in 2D and 3D cancer cell migration"**
16.40 – 17.10	*Coffee break*
SESSION II	**Chairs**: G. Taraboletti – A. Rossi
17.10 - 17.30	P. Cancemi *(Università di Palermo)* *"***Proteomics and 3D Models to Explore ESM1 function in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer"**
17.30 - 17.50	A. D'Ascola *(Università di Messina)* **"ESM-1 modulates cancer-associated fibroblast activation and extracellular matrix remodeling: implications for breast cancer progression"**
17.50 – 18.10	M. Scuruchi *(Università di Messina)* **"ESM1 drives pro-invasive mesenchymal activation and angiogenic reprogramming in breast cancer cells: convergent in vitro and in silico evidence"**
20.00	**Museum Visit and Welcome Dinner** **Contrada Priora della Civetta,** **Via Cecco Angiolieri, Siena**

Friday, 30 October 2026

SESSION III	**Chairs**: L. Bracci – A. Passi
9.00 - 9.40	Invited Lecture
	Nikos Karamanos (University of Patras, Greece)
	"Novel avenues in Cancer Research: the Critical Impact of Matrix Substrates, 3D Cell Models and TME Bioscaffolds"
9.40 - 10.00	D. Belotti *(Istituto di ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS)*
	"Tumor cells-CAF interactions drive PDAC metastatization"
10.00 - 10.20	E. Karousou *(Università dell'Insubria)*
	"Exosomal secretion of C10orf118 protein and its implication in breast cancer microenvironment dynamics"
10.20-10.40	C. D'Amico *(Università di Palermo)*
	"Beyond Tissue Profiling: Patient-Derived Serum as a Functional Microenvironment in Breast Cancer"
10.40 - 11.10	Coffee Break
SESSION IV	**Chairs**: R. Besio – A. D'Ascola
11.10 - 11.30	D. Antognoli *(Università dell'Insubria)*
	"C10ORF118 expression and hyaluronan-rich extracellular matrix in breast cancer: an immunohistochemical pilot study on formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissues"
11.30 - 11.50	M. Onisto *(Università di Padova)*
	"SPATA2 (Spermatogenesis-associated protein 2) is a new player in tumor-associated ECM turn-over and inflammation"
11.50 – 12.10	F. Gregoris *(Università di Padova)*
	"SPATA2 identifies an extracellular matrix-low transcriptional state in breast cancer"
12.10- 12.30	A. Rencinai *(Università di Siena)*
	"Targeting Pancreatic Cancer with Branched Oncolytic Peptides"
12.30-12.50	G. Bonucci *(Università di Siena)*
	"Investigating the Role of Heparan Sulfate Proteoglycans in Viral and Bacterial Pathogenesis Using the Tetrabranched Peptide NT4"
12.50-15.00	Light lunch

SESSION V	**Chairs**: M. Onisto – P. Brun
15.00 – 15.20	A. Rossi *(Università di Pavia)*
	"Intervertebral Disc Degeneration and Spinal Kyphosis in a Dysplasia Mouse Model"
15.20 – 15.40	R. Besio *(Università di Pavia)*
	"Treatment from birth with 4-PBA improves skeletal strength in mice"
15.40 – 16.00	G. Bruno *(Università di Pavia)*
	"Targeting bone mineralization via dietary phosphorus intake in osteogenesis imperfecta"
16.00 – 16.20	F.R. Calledda *(Università di Pavia)*
	"Antisense Oligonucleotide Targeting Extracellular Matrix Ameliorates Marrow Fibrosis"
16.20 – 16.50	Coffee Break
16.50 – 18.15	General Assembly
20.00	**Social Dinner** **Ristorante Pier Pettinaio** **Vicolo Beato Pier Pettinaio, Siena**

Saturday, 31 October 2026

SESSION VI	**Chairs**: C. Falciani – M. Spina
9.30 – 10.10	Mario Raspanti *(University of Insubria)*
	"Concerning Fibrils. Reflection on Fibrillar Collagens"
10.10 – 10.30	F. Rossi *(Università di Bologna)*
	"From in vitro models to a vascularized CAM model: establishing a 3D platform for osteosarcoma matrix mineralization"
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 11.20	A. Mazzilli *(Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia)*
	"Elastin calcification is inhibited by minocycline in cellular and acellular models"
11.20 –11.40	F.D. Lofaro *(Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia)*
	"In vitro mineralization of elastin fibrils"
11.40 – 12.00	Closing remarks