

On January 21, 2026, the new association “Matrix Biology Italy” (MBIta) was officially founded. The founding members, Passi A., Viola M., Forlino A., Besio R., Rossi A., Mongiat M., Gagliano N., Franchi M., Brun P., Masola V., and Onisto M., met in Padua in the presence of a notary.

The association's purpose is to promote the advancement of scientific knowledge having to do with the extracellular matrix (ECM) and related topics, to disseminate this knowledge, and to promote studies and research on the ECM and related areas of study.

The current Matrix Biology Italy (MBIta) association is the natural heir and offshoot of the former Italian Society of Connective Tissue (SISC), which was officially founded in February 1982 in Pavia in the Aula Magna of the Institute of Zoology . Already in September of the same year, the first scientific meeting of the Society took place in Florence, during which the first Executive Committee was elected (President: Alessandro Castellani, Vice President: Lorenzo Gotte, Secretary: Alberto Calatroni, Treasurer: Giuseppe Cetta, Councillors: Alessandro Ruggeri, Ivonne Pasquali Ronchetti, Cesare Balduini, Ranieri Cancedda, and Vincenzo Chiarugi) and the nomination of Prof. John E. Scott as Honorary Member was unanimously approved.

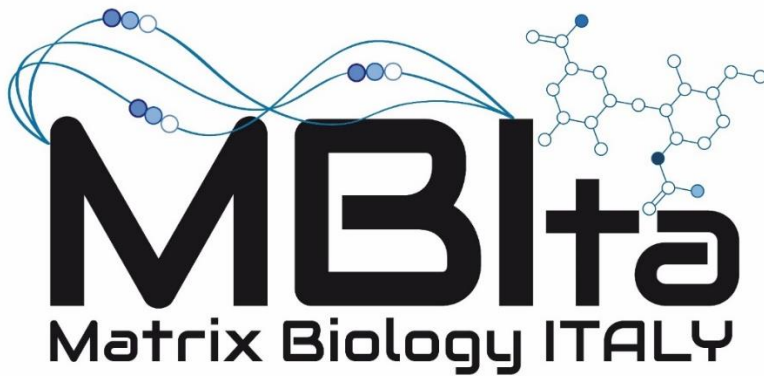
The first years of the SISC were characterized by the efforts of two fundamental and charismatic figures—namely, Prof. Castellani, founder of the School of Biochemistry of Pavia and leading expert in the biochemistry of the extracellular matrix, and Prof. Gotte, one of the fathers of Italian histology and internationally renowned for his studies on elastin. After their premature deaths (Prof. Castellani in 1988 and Prof. Gotte in 1991), the presidencies of Professors Ruggeri (1991-1997), Calatroni (1998-2004), Pucci Minafra (2005-2010), Rossi (2011-2016), Passi (2017-2022), and Onisto (2023 to date) followed. From its beginning, the SISC organized a scientific meeting every year in various Italian locales to which some of the leading international experts on ECM were invited. Furthermore, in 2004, it applied for and was eventually awarded the privilege of organizing the 19th FECTS Congress in Taormina (9-13 July). Finally, in 2022, the SISC organized the European Matrix Biology Europe 2022 in Florence (28-30 September) at which more than 200 scientists from all over Europe, the U.S.A., Brazil, Canada and Japan successfully participated. The last SISC-MBIta meeting took place from October 2 to 4, 2025 in Canizzaro Hall at the University of Messina. It was made up of two intense days of high-level scientific communications, thanks both to the presence of invited speakers Professors Karamanos and Theocaris (University of Patras) and to the contributions of the many young people present and senior researchers from our association.

MBIta is a member of Matrix Biology Europe (**MBE**) and also a member of the International Society for Matrix Biology (**ISMB**).

More info on : www.matrixbiology.it



The founding members (from left to right: Passi A., Viola M., Gagliano N., Franchi M., Mongiat M., Besio R., Masola V., Brun P., Forlino A., Rossi A., and Onisto M.) gathered in Padua for the foundation of MBIta.



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