



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II



GALENUS
PRIVATSTIFTUNG
Fördernde Kraft in der Pharmazeutischen Technologie

14th Galenus International Workshop

RNA Therapeutics:

Taking Stock and Glimpse into the Future

May 18-19, 2026

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
Centro Congressi, Via Partenope, 36, Napoli (IT)



With the support of



About the Workshop

Hosted by the Department of Pharmacy at the University of Naples Federico II in collaboration with the Galenus Foundation, the 14th Galenus International Workshop, "RNA Therapeutics: Taking Stock and a Glimpse into the Future," is an international conference devoted to the latest breakthroughs, challenges, and emerging opportunities in RNA-based therapeutic innovation.

Continuing the tradition of the international workshops organized across Europe by the Foundation, this two-day meeting brings together leading experts from academia and industry to present cutting-edge research in the field of RNA therapeutics, foster interdisciplinary dialogue, and help shape the evolving landscape of RNA-based medicines.

Held in the historic setting of Naples, the workshop combines scientific discussion with meaningful networking opportunities in a wonderful environment that encourages collaboration and exchange.

Join us in Naples to take stock of today's advances and to glimpse the future of RNA therapeutics!

Dr Gabriella Costabile

(Chair)

Dept of Pharmacy

University of Naples

Italy

Dr Cornelia D. Sonntag

(Co-Chair)

The Galenus Foundation

Austria

Prof Francesca Ungaro

(Co-Chair)

Dept of Pharmacy

University of Naples,

Italy

Scientific Program Committee

Angela Zampella, University of Naples "Federico II", IT

Fabiana Quaglia, University of Naples "Federico II", IT

Christel Müller-Goymann, TU Braunschweig, DE

Olivia M. Merkel, LMU Munich, DE

Sarah Hedtrich, The University of British Columbia, CA

Stefano Salmaso, University of Padua, IT

Ivana d'Angelo, University of Campania "L. Vanvitelli", IT

Thomas Lee Moore, University of Naples "Federico II", IT

Agnese Miro, University of Naples "Federico II", IT

Local Organizing

Committee

Claudia Conte

Teresa Silvestri

Antonella Vitiello

Simone Misto

Alessandra Spirito

Ersilia Villano



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Day 1 – May 18, 2026

8:30–9:30 Registration

9:30–10:15 **Welcome** (Chair: Dr Gabriella Costabile, Dr Cornelia D. Sonntag, Prof. Francesca Ungaro)

10:15–11:00 **Opening Lecture - Prof. Rosario Rizzuto** (Università di Padova, Italy)

"The Italian Center on RNA therapeutics: a coordinated effort"

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

Session 1 – RNA Mechanisms and Therapeutic Targets (Chair: Prof. O. M. Merkel, Prof. Fabiana Quaglia)

11:30–12:00 **Invited Lecture - Prof. Rory Johnson** (University College Dublin, Ireland)

"RIBONcology: Targeting Regulatory RNAs in Cancer"

12:00–12:45 **Podium Presentations**

12:00–12:15 *"Harnessing RNA interference to target GSK-3 β and miR-34a-5p in lung adenocarcinoma: toward next-generation RNA therapeutics"*

Rosita Di Palma, University of Naples, Italy

12:15–12:30 *"Phage Display-Derived Peptides for RNA-Centric Profiling of Tumor Extracellular Vesicle Subpopulations"*

Elisabetta Pingitore, University of Catanzaro, Italy

12:30–12:45 *"mRNA-based modulation of Bile acid-CoA:amino acid N-acyltransferase (BAAT) as a novel strategy in colorectal cancer"*

Paola De Cicco, University of Naples, Italy

12:45–13:15 **Flash Presentations** (Chair: Prof. Claudia Conte, Dr Teresa Silvestri)

"Targeting CD105 Through Inhaled siRNA Delivery: A Novel Therapeutic Strategy for Pulmonary Fibrosis"

Erika Esposito, University of Naples, Italy

"Deciphering RNA Recognition by Musashi-1 for Protein and RNA Design"

Pasquale Russomanno, University of Florence and CIRMMP, Italy

"Natural and engineered microRNA delivery systems in neuro-cutaneous signalling"

Nico Cavallo, University of Naples, Italy

Sponsor Talk - BUCHI Ltd

13:30–14:45 Official Group Photo - Lunch & Poster Session

Session 2a– Delivery Challenges of RNA Therapeutics (Chair: Prof. Christel Müller-Goymann, Prof. Francesca Ungaro)

14:45–15:30 **Plenary Lecture - Prof. Raymond Schiffelers** (UMC Utrecht, Netherlands)

"RNA-Enabled DNA Therapy: Targeted Lipid Nanoparticles for In Vivo CART"

15:30–17:00 **Podium Presentations**

15:30–15:45 *"The NanoTher Lab: engineering poly(β -amino ester) nanoparticles for controlled RNA delivery across physiological barriers"*

Cristina Fornaguera, Institut Químic de Sarrià (IQS), Universitat Ramon Llull, Spain

15:45–16:00 *"Engineered polymeric nanoparticles for the selective targeting siRNA to solid tumors"*

Claudia Conte, University of Naples, Italy

16:00–16:30 Coffee break

Session 2b– Delivery Challenges of RNA Therapeutics (Chair: Prof. Rory Johnson, Prof. Stefano Salmaso)

16:30–16:45 *"Hybrid nanoparticles for targeted cardiac regeneration via microRNA delivery"*

Francesco Schiavone, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

16:45–17:00 *"Lipid self-assembling nanoparticles towards novel mRNA-based vaccines"*

Valeria Nele, University of Naples, Italy

17:00–17:15 *"Composition-Morphology-Activity Relations in LNPs for mRNA Delivery"*

Tommaso Tedeschini, Italian Institute of Technology, Genova, Italy

17:15–17:30 *"Evaluation of hydrogels of various crosslinking mechanism for the sustained release of lipid nanoparticles"*

Andreas G. Schreibers, University of Regensburg, Germany

17:30–18:00 **Flash Presentations**

"Calcium phosphate nanoparticles enable efficient delivery of therapeutic siRNA for cardiac gene silencing"

Camilla Fusacchia, ISSMC, CNR, Italy

"Non-viral delivery strategies for CRISPR editors: mRNA and RNP approaches"

Alessandro Anderlini, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

"Self-Assembled Multifunctional Peptide Nanofibers in Gene Therapy"

Sara Palladino, University of Naples, Italy

"Inhalable Pullulan-based nanocarriers for efficient pulmonary siRNA delivery and gene silencing"

Sofia Bonsignore, University of Palermo, Italy

19:30 - Social Dinner and Music Entertainment

Hotel Royal Continental



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Day 2 – May 19, 2026

9:00 Welcome

Session 3 – Therapeutic Applications Beyond the Liver (Chair: Prof. Sarah Hedtrich, Prof. Ivana d'Angelo)

9:15–9:45 **Invited Lecture - Prof. Paolo Decuzzi** (IIT, IT & Stanford University, USA)

Title TBD

9:45–10:30 Podium Presentations

9:45–10:00 *"Design of a Multifunctional Inulin-Based Nanoplatfom for siRNA Pulmonary Delivery"*

Salvatore E. Drago, University of Palermo, Italy

10:00–10:15 *"RNAi-Powered Magnetic Nanoparticles to Disarm Drug-Resistant Tumors"*

Prajakta Tambe, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (IINL), Portugal

10:15–10:30 *"Design and characterization of mucin-based protein nanoparticles for nucleic acid encapsulation"*

Sonja Visentin, University of Turin, Italy

10:30–11:00 **Invited Lecture - Prof. Olivia M. Merkel** (LMU Munich, Germany)

"From Molecular Dynamics to Materials: AI-Guided Pulmonary RNA Delivery"

11:00–11:30 Coffee Break

Session 4 – The Manufacturing Challenge (Chair: Prof. Raymond Schiffelers, Prof. Thomas Lee Moore)

11:30–12:00 **Invited Lecture - Prof. Giovanni Tosi** (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)

"Shaping Nanomedicines: How to Move Faster and Better?"

12:00–12:45 Podium Presentations

12:00–12:15 *"NanoPULSE: A Scalable Micromixing Platform for Robust RNA-LNP Formulation Across All Scales"*

Robin Oliveres, Inside Therapeutics, France

12:15–12:30 *"Advancing RNA Quantification in Nanoparticle Formulations through Scatter-Free UV-Vis Spectroscopy"*

Albert Grau Carbonell, Marama Labs Limited, Ireland

12:30–12:45 *"Impact of dsRNA on cellular viability and reduction of dsRNA in in vitro transcribed mRNA via enzymatic optimization and polishing"* Nicolò Sacchetti, Aldevron, ND, USA

12:45–13:20 **Flash Presentations** (Chair: Prof. Claudia Conte, Dr Teresa Silvestri)

"Microfluidic engineering of platelet membrane protein-functionalized lipid nanoparticles for advanced RNA therapeutics"

Erwin P. Lamparelli, University of Salerno, Italy

"From Bench to Microfluidics: Scalable Production of Functional siRNA-Loaded Lipid@PLGA Hybrid Nanoparticles"

Ersilia Villano, University of Naples, Italy

"Integrating Experimental and Computational Approaches in the Design of pBAE Nanoparticles"

Anna Clua, Universitat Ramon Llull (URL), Spain

"High-throughput formulation screening to identify functional LNPs for mRNA delivery to human primary lung cells"

Teresa Ferrillo, University of Naples, Italy

Sponsor Talk - Alfatest s.r.l.

13:30–14:30 Light lunch & Poster Session

Session 5 – Advanced Models for RNA Therapeutics Validation (Chair: Prof. Giovanni Tosi, Prof. Giuseppe De Rosa)

14:30–15:00 **Invited Lecture – Prof. Sarah Hedtrich** (The University of British Columbia, Canada)

"Local gene therapies to reduce genetic diseases of the skin and lungs"

15:00–15:30 Podium Presentations

15:00–15:15 *"Targeting glioblastoma via L-amino acid transporters using amino acid-guided nanomedicines as potential carriers for RNA therapeutics"* - Claudia Martins, University of Porto, Portugal

15:15–15:30 *"Engineering hybrid extracellular vesicle nanocarriers for siRNA-mediated targeting of IL-3 in triple-negative breast cancer using a zebrafish model"* - Maria F. Brizzi, University of Turin, Italy

15:30–16:00 Flash Presentations

"Nonclinical evaluation of cardiac and off-target safety of an acutely administered nanoformulated small interfering RNA (siRNA) targeting RyR2 mRNA" - Federica Comella, University of Naples, Italy

"Mitigating Pre-analytical Variability: An Automated Manufacturing Platform for Standardized EV-based Liquid Biopsy" - Annarita Scardamaglia, University of Catanzaro, Italy

"Lipid self-assembling nanoparticles for Efficient CRISPR/CAS9-Based Editing"

Alessia Angelillo, University of Naples, Italy

"Inhalable Chitosan nanoparticles for pulmonary RNA delivery: Impact of Chitosan structural organization" - Andrea Casale, University of Campania, Italy

16:00 - Closing remarks



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CONFERENCE VENUE

The conference will be held in the main room (Aula Magna) of the Centro Congressi Partenope, part of the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, located at Via Partenope, 36 in Naples, Italy.

The conference hall is located almost directly across from the famous Castel dell'Ovo and along the beautiful main promenade in the heart of Naples.



Centro Congressi
Via Partenope, 36 - 80121 Napoli (IT)

REGISTRATION FEES

Including lunches, coffee breaks and social dinner

	Price (euros)	Deadline
Student* Early Bird Registration	€ 130.00	31 March 2026
Student* Registration	€ 150.00	8 May 2026
Regular Early Bird Registration	€ 150.00	14 March 2026
Regular Registration	€ 170.00	8 May 2026
Representative from Industry	€ 170.00	NA

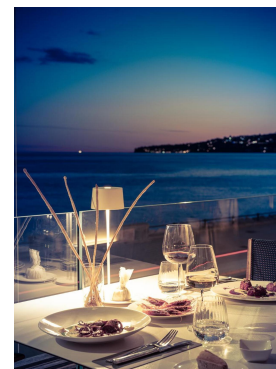
*Undergraduate/Msc/PhD students

SOCIAL DINNER

May 18th, 2026 - 7:30 PM

HOTEL ROYAL CONTINENTAL

Via Partenope, 38
80121 Napoli (IT)



SPONSORS



When:

May 18–19, 2026

Where:

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II
Centro Congressi via Partenope, 36
Napoli (Italy)

For any question related to the scientific program:

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For any administrative matters relating to registration or logistical support:

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Visit our website:

www.galenusmeeting2026.com

