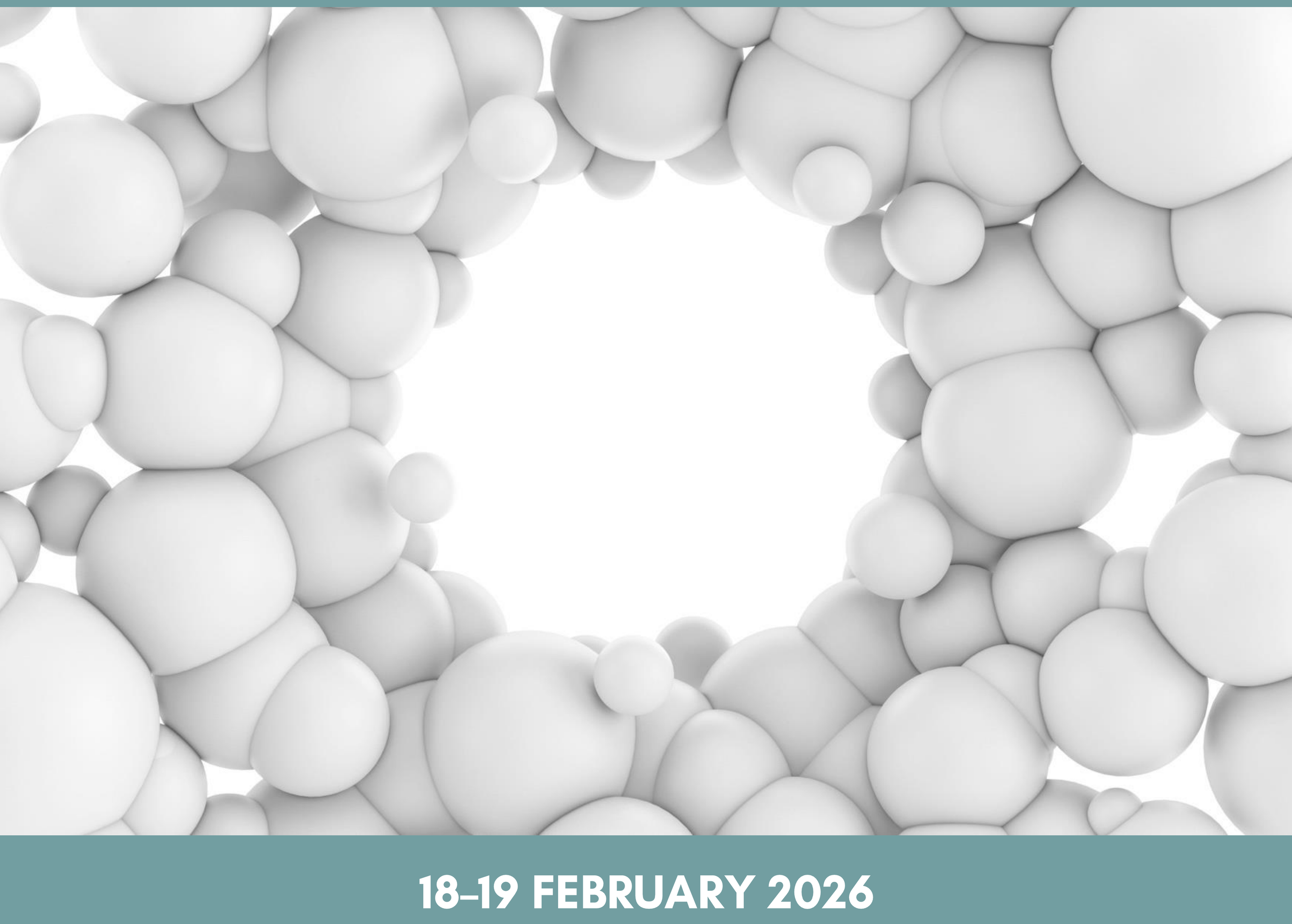
MODELING LIFE 2026

3D HUMAN-BASED TECHNOLOGIES IN MODERN BIOLOGY



18-19 FEBRUARY 2026

Aula “S. Sergi”, Dip. Biologia e Biotecnologie “Charles Darwin”
Sapienza Università di Roma

Organized by
Drs. Giulia Matusali, Nadia Andrea Andreani, Martina Pasqua, Marco Straccia.

SAPIENZA
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EVENT PARTNERS & ORGANIZATIONS

MAIN ORGANIZERS

Scientific and Coordinating Committee

Dr. Giulia Matusali
Dr. Nadia Andrea Andreani
Dr. Martina Pasqua

Dip. Biologia e Biotecnologie "Charles Darwin"

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DAY 1

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

08:30 – 09:00 Arrival & Registration

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome & Opening Remarks by the Organizing Committee**, La Sapienza Università di Roma

OPENING LECTURE

09:15-10:00

Dr. Milena Mennecozzi

Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission.

Developing standards for emerging human-based technologies – the role of the European Commission

SESSION 1 – NERVOUS SYSTEM MODELS

10:00-10:30

Prof. Alessandro Rosa

Dip. Biologia e Biotecnologie "C. Darwin", Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy.

Neuromuscular organoids for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis disease modeling

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

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10:45 – 11:00 COMPANY SESSION

Dr. Silvia Scaglione – React4Life s.r.l.

Advancing Disease Modeling and Drug Discovery with 3D Cancer Models and Organ-on-Chip Technology

www.react4life.com

SESSION 2 – MODELING THE LUNG

11:00-11:30

Prof. Cecilia Ambrosi

Università San Raffaele IRCCS San Raffaele, Rome, Italy.

From bronchial ALI cultures to alveolar organoids: innovative platforms to study host-pathogen interactions and immunomodulatory strategies

11:30-12:00

Dr. Roberto Plebani

G. D'Annunzio Università di Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy.

The Future of Preclinical Research: Organ-on-a-chip-Technology for Studying Airway Inflammation and Infection

SESSION 3 – MODELING THE BONE TISSUE

12:00-12:30

Dr. Mario Ledda

CNR – Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Rome, Italy.

Three-dimensional bone tissue models: advanced platforms for biomedical and translational research

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12:30-12:45 COMPANY SESSION

Dr. Marta Dossena - Biotechne srl

Cutting-Edge Solutions for 3D Cell Culture & Organoid Research

www.bio-techne.com

12:45 - 14:00 Lunch Break

Lunch will be provided for speakers only.

Additional attendees may use nearby dining options at their discretion.

SESSION 4 – THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

14:00-14:30

Dr. Daniela Scribano

Dip. Sanità Pubblica e Malattie Infettive, La Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy.

Growing gastro-intestinal organoids: essential methodologies and applications

14:30-15:00

Dr. Francesco Boccellato

Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Mucosoid models to uncover epithelial homeostasis and host-pathogen interactions

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SESSION 5 – THE ENDOCRYNE SYSTEM

15:00-15:30

Prof. Michaela Luconi

Università di Firenze, Dept. of Experimental and Clinical Biomedical Sciences "Mario Serio", Florence, Italy.

TBD

15:30-16:00

Dr. Cinzia Rinaldo

CNR – Istituto di Biologia e Patologia Molecolari, Rome, Italy.

Lesson from in vivo preclinical models and organoids: unraveling pancreatic cancer biology

16:00-16:15 COMPANY SESSION

Dr. Gessica Marchini - **Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A.**

3D Human-based Technologies for modeling Lung disease

www.chiesi.com

16:15 – 17:00 **Open Discussion & Networking**

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DAY 2

Thursday, 19 February 2026

08:30 – 09:00 Arrival & Coffee

SESSION 6 – REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM MODELS

09:00-9:30

Prof. Nathalie Dejucq-Rainsford

INSERM Unité 1085, Université Rennes 1, Rennes, France

Male genital tract models for toxicology and virology studies

09:30-10:00

Dr. Giulia Matusali

Dip. Biologia e Biotecnologie "C. Darwin", Sapienza Università di Roma, Rome, Italy.

Modelling the complex interaction of emerging pathogens with the female genital tract

10:00 – 11:15 COMPANY SESSION

Dr. Giuseppe Falvo D'Urso Labate – Cellex srl

Biomimetic Three-Dimensional Cultures: Integrating Fluid Dynamics, Scaffolds, and Cellular Response in a Novel Bioreactor System

www.cellexpansiondevices.com

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SESSION 7 – THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

10:15-10:45

Prof. Cinzia Fionda

Dip. Medicina Molecolare, Sapienza Università di Roma. Rome, Italy.

An organoid based model to study immune response in colorectal cancer

10:45-11:15

Dr. Marilena Paola Etna

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Roma, Rome, Italy.

Modeling vaccine response with immune-relevant in vitro models

11:15 - 11:45 Coffee Break

SESSION 8 – DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION

11:45-12:15

Dr. Marco Straccia

FRESCI by Science&Strategy, Barcelona, Spain.

BimmoH.eu – The largest AI-powered database for human-based models in biomedical research by the European Commission

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CLOSING LECTURE

12:15-13:00

Prof. Thomas Hartung

CAAT, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA.

The use of brain organoids in life sciences

13:00 - 13:30

Closing Remarks & Final Discussion – Organizing Committee & Invited Speakers

AFTERNOON STUDENT WORKSHOP

15:00-16:30

Dr. Marco Straccia

FRESCI by Science&Strategy, Barcelona, Spain.

The Right Model for the Right Question: Research Strategy for PhDs to Maximize Translational Value

by SCIENCE&STRATEGY SL

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ONLINE PROGRAM

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INSTITUTIONAL CONTACT E-MAIL

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