



Wednesday, May 20

14:00 - 16:10
Auditorium

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RaccontART Contest Awards: incontro con le scuole finaliste e premiazione

Giunto alla dodicesima edizione e destinato agli studenti degli Istituti Scolastici Superiori, il Contest artistico RaccontART rappresenta un'occasione unica e preziosa di formazione e informazione in tema di HIV ed Infezioni Sessualmente Trasmesse. Questa sessione è dedicata alla presentazione delle Opere finaliste in concorso, selezionate dalle Giurie Artistica e Tecnico-Scientifica. Al termine della Sessione, verranno premiati i primi tre classificati.

Chairs: Francesca Ceccherini Silberstein (Roma), Adriano Lazzarin (Milano), Paolo Meli (Bergamo)
14.00 - 14.10 Benvenuto dei Presidenti ICAR 2026

Paolo Maggi, Enna
 Giuseppe Nunnari, Catania
 Ilenia Pennini, Padova
 Carlo Federico Perno, Roma

14.10 - 14.20 Introduzione e presentazione della Giuria Artistica e Tecnico-Scientifica

Francesca Ceccherini
 Silberstein, Roma
 Paolo Meli, Bergamo

14.20 - 15.45 Presentazione delle Opere finaliste al Concorso a cura degli Istituti Scolastici
15.45 - 16.00 Premiazione primi 3 classificati

Francesca Ceccherini
 Silberstein, Roma
 Adriano Lazzarin, Milano
 Paolo Meli, Bergamo

16.00 - 16.10 Conclusioni

Francesca Ceccherini
 Silberstein, Roma
 Adriano Lazzarin, Milano
 Paolo Meli, Bergamo

16:30 - 17:30
Auditorium

>>> Satellite Symposium

With an unrestricted educational grant from ViiV Healthcare

Long-Acting beyond chronicity: present, challenges and prospects in HIV

This symposium aims to discuss how Long-Acting therapies are already tangibly transforming the experience of chronic disease management across very different clinical settings, and how this evidence can also guide the transition in HIV care toward treatment pathways less constrained by daily therapy. Long-Acting formulations have been shown to reduce treatment burden, improve adherence and quality of life, stabilize drug exposure, and enable new care delivery settings. These operational and cultural transformations provide a framework for understanding how HIV is now facing a pivotal shift: not the immediate eradication of the disease, but a profound reconfiguration of its day-to-day management, more patient-centered and potentially more sustainable for healthcare systems. The objective of the symposium is to highlight the value of Long-Acting formulations in mitigating the impact of chronicity and promoting new models of care, demonstrating how they can become central elements in redesigning care pathways and outlining the organizational and operational conditions necessary to effectively integrate treatment management and prevention strategies.

Chairs: Antonella Castagna (Milano), Andrea Gori (Milano)
16.30 - 16.50 Overcoming chronicity: the Long-Acting revolution

Fabrizio Condorelli, Novara



16.50 - 17.00 Innovations in HIV: shaping the future of Long-Acting treatments

Andrea Antinori, Roma

17.00 - 17.25 Round Table led by the chairs

Long-Acting therapies in HIV: current landscape, future perspectives and impact on treatment and prevention

Moderators:

Antonella Castagna, Milano

Andrea Gori, Milano

Discussants:

Andrea Antinori, Roma

Annamaria Cattelan, Padova

Antonio Di Biagio, Genova

Massimo Farinella, Roma

Cristina Mussini, Modena

Stefano Rusconi, Legnano MI

17.25 - 17.30 Take-home messages

Antonella Castagna, Milano

Andrea Gori, Milano

17:30 - 19:30

Auditorium

>>> ICAR 2026 Opening Session

Chairs: Paolo Maggi (Enna), Giuseppe Nunnari (Catania), Ilenia Pennini (Padova). Carlo Federico Perno (Roma)

17.30 - 17.45 Introducing ICAR 2026: Chairs' welcome addresses

17.45 - 18.00 Authorities' welcome addresses

18.00 - 19.00 Keynote Lectures

Chair: Cristina Mussini (Modena)

18.00 - 18.30 Mauro Moroni Memorial Lecture: "One step closer to a cure for HIV"

*Ole Schmeltz Søgaard, Aarhus
DK*

Antiretroviral therapy (ART) has transformed HIV-1 infection into a manageable chronic condition, yet the viral reservoir decays so slowly that ART alone is unlikely to achieve cure within a lifetime, necessitating new safe and scalable therapeutic strategies. Current cure approaches broadly aim either to eradicate or inactivate the reservoir or to induce durable immune-mediated control. Although hematopoietic stem cell transplantation has cured HIV-1 in rare cases, its risks preclude widespread use, shifting focus toward immune-based strategies, particularly enhancing cytotoxic CD8+ T-cell responses associated with spontaneous control. While therapeutic vaccines have largely failed and many investigational agents—developed for HIV-1 or repurposed from oncology and hematology—have not significantly reduced the reservoir, recent trials show that some individuals can achieve partial or complete long-term viral control after ART interruption, supporting the possibility of cure. This talk will highlight the most promising approaches, including broadly neutralizing antibodies, identify populations most likely to benefit, address key remaining barriers, and examine biological mechanisms underlying sustained post-treatment control.


Chair: Daniela Rojas Castro (Madrid ES)
18.30 - 19.00 Giulio Maria Corbelli Memorial Lecture: "From Denver Declaration to Dissent: Reviving the Political Fire of HIV Activism"

Salvatore Cecere, Bologna
 Filippo Schlöesser, Roma

Since its emergence in 1981, the HIV/AIDS crisis has radically reshaped the boundaries of scientific knowledge and human relationships. The epidemic abruptly interrupted the momentum of (homo)sexual liberation and was weaponized as a tool of moral panic and renewed control over sexuality—framed as "gay plague" or divine punishment. Yet within this devastation, unprecedented forms of grassroots organization and mutual aid arose. In 1983, the Denver Principles proclaimed "Nothing about us without us," inaugurating a generation of activists who fought not only for survival but for the dignity and future of those who might outlive them. While institutions struggled to respond, activists transformed HIV from a biomedical emergency into a powerful identity-shaping force for queer culture and the modern patients' rights movement. Forty-five years later, in the era of U=U, PrEP, and TasP, life expectancy and sexual lives have been profoundly redefined. But has the grammar of risk truly changed? Sexual liberation was never merely the absence of risk; it was the capacity to act, to experiment, to politicize desire, and to claim healthcare as a human right. In a time when we are told that HIV is no longer a death sentence, have we lost the political urgency to demand more? This lecture revisits the radical imagination of early HIV activism to ask: is biomedical success enough—or is it time, once again, to dissent?

19.00 - 19.15 TRIS (Top Researchers ICAR-SIMIT) Awards

Antonella Castagna, Milano
 Cristina Mussini, Modena

The three best scientific publications of 2025 related to ICAR topics (HIV, STIs, and other Viral Infections), published by Italian authors in international indexed journals. The members of the Commission - composed of the ICAR Board and Congress Chairs - individually assessed the various scientific papers on the basis of the following criteria: Originality, Quality of the scientific journal, Methodological rigour, Innovativeness compared to the state of the art on the topic, Relevance to clinical practice.

19.15 - 19.30 Closing remarks

Paolo Maggi, Enna
 Giuseppe Nunnari, Catania
 Ilenia Pennini, Padova
 Carlo Federico Perno, Roma