

BRIDGE 2026

*Building Relationships to Innovate and Develop Global Expertise
in Cardiovascular Medicine – 2nd Edition*

25 - 26 September 2026

Fondazione Policlinico A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Rome - L.go A. Gemelli 8

Responsabili Scientifici

Prof. Andrea Flex

Prof. Yamume Tshomba

Prof. Francesco Burzotta

Prof. Massimo Massetti

Friday 25th Sept 2026

08:15 – 08:45 | Registration

08:45 – 09:00 | INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS, OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME ADDRESS

Alessandro Sgambato	<i>Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome</i>
Daniele Piacentini	<i>General Manager, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli - IRCCS</i>
Antonio Gasbarrini	<i>Scientific Director, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli - IRCCS</i>
Ignazio R. M. Marino	<i>Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Sidney Kimmel Medical College, Thomas Jefferson University, USA - Member of the European Parliament</i>
Massimo Massetti	<i>Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, CUORE - Cardiovascular Unique Offer Re-Engineered</i>

OPENING LECTURE

President: **Antonio Gasbarrini**

Chairs: **Raffaele Landolfi, Ignazio R. M. Marino**

09:00 – 09:30 | *Bridging Coronary Atherothrombosis and Colorectal Carcinogenesis Through Platelet Inhibition: Aspirin in its 130th Year of Life*
Carlo Patrono (UCSC, Rome)

SESSION 1: Advancing Care in Cardio-Renal-Metabolic Disorders: New Therapeutic Pathways

Chairs: **Dario Pitocco, Giorgio Sesti**

09:40 -- 09:50 | *The dangerous connection between diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and kidney health*

Ernesto Maddaloni

09:50 -- 10:00 | *The dangerous intersection of diabetes and peripheral artery disease*

Federico Biscetti

10:00 -- 10:10 | *More than weight control: the cardiorenal promise of GIP/GLP 1 RAs*

Geltrude Mingrone

10:10 -- 10:20 | *Sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors for chronic kidney disease: why, when and when not*

Giuseppe Grandaliano

10:20 -- 10:30 | *Redefining cardiovascular protection in patients with or without diabetes: the expanding role of SGLT2 inhibitors*

Rosa Lillo

10:30 -- 10:40 | *Next-generation aldosterone blockers: finerenone for cardiorenal protection*

Mario Canonico

10:40 -- 10:50 | *The central role of general practitioners in cardio-renal-metabolic care: PDTA as a catalyst for integration*

Maurizio Ridolfi

10:50 -- 11:10 | **Keynote Lecture:** *Cardio-renal-metabolic disease management: moving from reat-to-target to treat-to-benefit*

Giorgio Sesti

11:10 -- 11:25 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers

11:25 -- 11:55 | Coffee Break & Networking

SESSION 2: Evolving Paradigms in Dyslipidemia Treatment and Cardiovascular Prevention

Chairs: **Andrea Flex, Roberto Pola**

11:55 -- 12:05 | *Lipid-lowering therapy after the esc 2025 guidelines: the role of statins and statin-ezetimibe combinations*

Giorgia Polito

12:05 -- 12:15 | *Advancing cardiovascular prevention: the emerging role of bempedoic acid*

Luca Moriconi

12:15 -- 12:25 | *From discovery to clinical practice: PCSK9 inhibitors as a paradigm of translational research in cardiovascular prevention*

Margherita Rando

12:25 -- 12:35 | *From gene silencing to clinical practice: why Inclisiran represents a durable and reliable therapeutic option*

Leonardo De Luca

12:35 -- 12:45 | *Triglyceride level as a potential marker of residual cardiovascular risk*

Matteo Pirro

12:45 -- 13:05 | **Keynote Lecture (Remote Presentation):**

Lipoprotein(a): a key driver of residual cardiovascular risk and the promise of novel pharmacological therapies

Marc P. Bonaca (remote presentation)

13:05 -- 13:20 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers

13:20 -- 14:30 | Lunch Break

SESSION 3: From Guidelines to Individual Care: the Evolving Landscape of Hypertension Therapy

Chairs: **Giovambattista Desideri, Francesco Landi**

14:30 -- 14:40 | *ESC Guidelines 2024: the impact of new targets in cardiovascular care — bridging evidence and clinical practice*

Michele Santoro

14:40 -- 14:50 | *Single pill or polypills: can adherence be improved?*

Claudio Santini

14:50 -- 15:00 | *The growing problem of resistant hypertension*

Giuliano Tocci

15:00 -- 15:10 | *Cardiac Amyloidosis and left ventricular hypertrophy as drivers of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction*

Francesca Graziani

15:10 -- 15:20 | *Renal denervation in hypertension management: an alternative or a complement to pharmacological therapy?*

Roberto Iezzi

15:20 -- 15:40 | **Keynote Lecture:** *Hypertension and aging: clinical realities, research innovations, and the road ahead*

Giovambattista Desideri

15:40 -- 15:55 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers

15:55 -- 16:30 | Coffee Break & Networking

SESSION 4: Coronary Syndromes in Transition: from Acute Instability to Coronary Functional Disorders

Chairs: **Francesco Burzotta, Rene Alvarez, Carlo Trani**

16:30 – 16:40 | *The acute cardiovascular patient: toward precision management in acute coronary syndromes*

Gregary Marhefka

16:40 – 16:50 | *Cardiogenic shock complicating acute myocardial infarction: current challenges and emerging strategies*

Tommaso Sanna

16:50 – 17:00 | *High-Risk PCI in acute coronary syndromes: the expanding role of mechanical circulatory support*

Cristina Aurigemma

17:00 – 17:10 | *Beyond angiography: functional and intracoronary imaging assessment of intermediate coronary lesions*

Antonio Maria Leone

17:10 – 17:20 | *Inflammation and residual risk after acute coronary syndromes: implications for future therapies*

Giovanna Liuzzo

17:20 -- 17:40 | **Keynote Lecture:** Ischemic heart disease beyond obstructive coronary disease: a new clinical paradigm

Paolo Camici

17:40 – 17:55 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers

17:55 -- 18:15 | Conclusions first day

Saturday 26th Sept 2026

SESSION 5: From Competition to Collaboration: the New Era of Aortic Valve Therapy

Chairs: **Massimo Massetti, Piergiorgio Bruno**

08:30 -- 08:40 | *Closing the gap: how modern aortic surgery is redefining risk, recovery, and competitiveness*

Federico Cammertoni

08:40 -- 08:50 | *Beyond transfemoral: the new TAVI access toolbox for complex anatomy and broader eligibility*

Enrico Romagnoli

08:50 -- 10:00 | *The hybrid advantage: surgeon–interventionalist collaboration to treat the “untreatable” aortic valve patient*

Mattia Lunardi

10:00 -- 10:10 | *Aortic regurgitation: the unfinished story: why surgery still leads — and how transcatheter therapy is catching up*

Nicholas J Ruggiero

10:10 -- 10:20 | *When the aortic valve is only the beginning: managing concomitant coronary and valve disease in elderly and high-risk patients*

Giovanni Chiariello

10:20 -- 10:30 | *The stenotic bicuspid aortic valve in 2026: myths and misconceptions between surgery and transcatheter aortic valve implantation*

Carlo Trani

10:30 -- 10:40 | *Small annulus, big problem: choosing between surgery, annular enlargement, and tavi to avoid patient–prosthesis mismatch*

Maria Grandinetti

10:40 -- 11:00 | **Keynote Lecture:** *Holistic approach to the management of aortic diseases in the 21st century*

Konstadinos A Plestis,

11:00 -- 11:15 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers

11:15 -- 11:45 | Coffee Break & Networking

SESSION 6: Multidisciplinary Approach to TAAA Repair: Hemodynamics, Neuroprotection and Technical Strategies

Chairs: **Yamume Tshomba, Paul J Dimuzio**

11:45 -- 11:55 | *Spinal cord ischemia: why are we still losing the battle?*

Ottavia Borghese

11:55 -- 12:05 | *Organ protection 2.0: cutting-edge perfusion strategies, ischemia-reperfusion mitigation, and metabolic conditioning*

Andrea Scapigliati

12:05 -- 12:15 | *Extracorporeal circulation in TAAA: when, why, and how much?*

Fabrizio Minelli

12:15 -- 12:25 | *Open TAAA Repair: the gold standard under siege*

Efrem Civilini

12:25 -- 12:35 | *Endovascular TAAA: are branched and fenestrated devices the new standard?*

Wassim Mansour

12:35 -- 12:45 | *Hybrid TAAA repair: redefining limits in patients we once considered inoperable*

Giovanni Tinelli

12:45 -- 12:55 | **Keynote Lecture:** *TAAA Repair in 2026: Are We Really Any Better Than 20 Years Ago?*

Roberto Chiesa

12:55 -- 13:25 | Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers

13:25 -- 13:30 | Conclusions and Closing Remarks

Scientific Rationale

BRIDGE 2026 – *Building Relationships to Innovate and Develop Global Expertise in Cardiovascular Medicine – Second Edition* was conceived as a dynamic forum designed to foster interdisciplinary collaboration, clinical innovation, and the advancement of personalized cardiovascular care. As the global burden of cardiovascular disease continues to rise, there is a pressing need to move beyond traditional paradigms and integrate novel diagnostic, therapeutic, and organizational strategies into everyday practice. Now in its second edition, BRIDGE 2026 builds on the success of its inaugural meeting by addressing four major pillars of cardiovascular disease, cardiac and vascular surgery, through a comprehensive and highly interactive format that includes case-based discussions, cutting-edge lectures, and multidisciplinary panels. The active participation of residents and young clinicians in presenting complex clinical cases reflects the program's strong commitment to mentorship, education, and the continuous renewal of medical expertise. At the core of BRIDGE 2026 lies the principle of value-based healthcare, which prioritizes outcomes that matter most to patients, balanced with the resources required to achieve them. In cardiovascular medicine, this translates to delivering care that improves survival, function, and quality of life, while ensuring sustainability, efficiency, and equity across healthcare systems. Value is created not only through innovative diagnostics and therapies, but also through coordinated, patient-centered pathways that enhance continuity and integration of care. A central focus of this year's edition is the promotion of transversal management, emphasizing the need for seamless integration across specialties, disciplines, and care settings. Cardiovascular patients often present with complex, multi-system

conditions requiring a unified clinical vision and synchronized therapeutic strategies. By exploring real-world approaches such as hybrid revascularization, emerging biomarkers, novel risk stratification methods, and cutting-edge pharmacological innovations, the agenda highlights how teamwork and multidimensional care planning can translate into improved patient outcomes. BRIDGE 2026 is more than a scientific event: it is a shared space to bridge the gaps—between acute and chronic care, between disciplines, and between research and clinical practice—reimagining cardiovascular medicine through the lens of value, integration, and human-centered innovation.

ELENCO FACULTY

NOME COGNOME	PROFESSIONE	DISCIPLINA	ENTE DI APPARTENENZA LIBERA PROFESSIONE	DESCRIZIONE ATTIVITA' PROFESSIONALE/FORMATIVA
ANTONIO GASBARRINI	Medicina e Chirurgia	medicina interna	Policlinico Gemelli Roma	Direttore CEMAD
IGNAZIO R. M. MARINO	Medicina e Chirurgia	medicina interna	Thomas Jefferson University USA	Professore emerito Chirurgia - Parlamento Europeo
ANDREA FLEX	Medicina e Chirurgia	cardiochirurgia medicina interna	Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Roma	Direttore medicina cardiovascolare
YAMUME TSHOMBA	Medicina e Chirurgia	chirurgia vascolare	Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Roma	Chief of Vascular Surgery
FRANCESCO BURZOTTA	Medicina e Chirurgia	cardiologia	Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore Roma	Chief of Cardiology
MASSIMO MASSETTI	Medicina e Chirurgia	chirurgia vascolare	Policlinico Gemelli Roma	Chief of Cardiac Surgery and Chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences CUORE Cardiovascular Unique Offer Re-Engineered
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CARLO PATRONO	Medicina e Chirurgia	farmacologia	University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine	Adjunct Professor of Pharmacology
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Il Provider, ai sensi dall’ art. 47 del DPR n.445/2000, consapevole delle conseguenze previste dall’art. 76, dichiara:

- di aver fornito all’interessato l’informativa sul trattamento dei dati personali (art. 13 del Regolamento europeo 2016/679; artt. 68, 70, 76, 96 Accordo Stato-Regioni 2017 “La formazione continua nel settore salute” - Rep. Atti 14/CSR del 2.2.2017 - Par. 4.6, lett. j) Manuale Nazionale di Accreditamento per l’Erogazione di Eventi ECM);
- di aver informato l’interessato che il programma dell’evento ECM, di cui le suddette informazioni contribuiscono a formarne il contenuto minimo, verrà inserito nel catalogo degli eventi E.C.M. tenuto dall’ente accreditante.

Il sottoscritto/a Giacomo Materazzo, nato a Spoleto, Prov. PG, il 28/01/1972, residente a Spoleto, CAP 06049, Prov. PG, Codice FiscaleMTRGCM72A28I921K e domiciliato a Spoleto, CAP 06049, Prov. PG, Telefono 0645505560, e-mail segreteria@event-lab.eu ammistrazione@event-lab.eu, in qualità di legale rappresentante dell’Azienda Event Lab Srl con sede legale in Corso Trieste 88 – 00198 Roma del Provider ECM e Segreteria Organizzativa Event lab siamo a confermare di avere raccolto tutti i CV dei docenti , compreso quello del Responsabile Scientifico. La documentazione è da noi stata raccolta e protocollata e si trova presso i ns uffici operativi in Via Paolo Emilio 7 Roma

In fede,
L’Amministratore Unico
Giacomo Materazzo

