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Fondazione Policlinico Universitario Agostino Gemelli IRCCS
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



 **CUORE**
Cardiovascular Unique Offer ReEngineered



FONDAZIONE ROMA

Gemelli



2nd Edition



BRIDGE

Building Relationships to Innovate and Develop
Global Expertise in Cardiovascular Medicine

25th and 26th September 2026

Rome - Fondazione Policlinico Universitario
A. Gemelli, IRCCS

Organizing secretariat
and provider ecm n. 6364

EVENTLAB

Via Paolo Emilio 7 - 00192 ROMA
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Scientific Directors

Prof. Andrea Flex

Prof. Yamume Tshomba

Prof. Francesco Burzotta

Prof. Massimo Massetti

Scientific Committee

Dr. Federico Biscetti

Dr. Ottavia Borghese

Prof. Giovanna Liuzzo

Dr. Piergiorgio Bruno

2nd Edition



BRIDGE

Building Relationships to Innovate and Develop
Global Expertise in Cardiovascular Medicine

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.



FACULTY



Cristina Aurigemma (*Rome, Italy*)

Federico Biscetti (*Rome, Italy*)

Marc P. Bonaca (*Colorado, USA*)

Ottavia Borghese (*Rome, Italy*)

Piergiorgio Bruno (*Rome, Italy*)

Francesco Burzotta (*Rome, Italy*)

Paolo Camici (*Milan, Italy*)

Federico Cammertoni (*Rome, Italy*)

Mario Canonico (*Colorado, USA*)

Giovanni Chiariello (*Rome, Italy*)

Roberto Chiesa (*Milan, Italy*)

Efrem Civilini (*Milan, Italy*)

Leonardo De Luca (*Pavia, Italy*)

Giovambattista Desideri (*Rome, Italy*)

Ilaria Di Diego (*Rome, Italy*)

Paul J. Dimuzio (*Philadelphia, USA*)

Andrea Flex (*Rome, Italy*)

Antonio Gasbarrini (*Rome, Italy*)

Emanuele Gatta (*Ancona, Italy*)

Giuseppe Grandaliano (*Rome, Italy*)

Maria Grandinetti (*Rome, Italy*)

Francesca Graziani (*Rome, Italy*)

Roberto Iezzi (*Rome, Italy*)

Francesco Landi (*Rome, Italy*)

Raffaele Landolfi (*Rome, Italy*)

Antonio Maria Leone (*Rome, Italy*)

Rosa Lillo (*Rome, Italy*)

Giovanna Liuzzo (*Rome, Italy*)

Mattia Lunardi (*Rome, Italy*)

Ernesto Maddaloni (*Rome, Italy*)

Wassim Mansour (*Rome, Italy*)

Gregary Marhefka (*Philadelphia, USA*)

Ignazio R. Marino (*Philadelphia, USA*)

Massimo Massetti (*Rome, Italy*)

Geltrude Mingrone (*Rome, Italy*)

Luca Moriconi (*Rieti, Italy*)

Carlo Patrono (*Rome, Italy*)

Daniele Piacentini (*Rome, Italy*)

Matteo Pirro (*Perugia, Italy*)

Dario Pitocco (*Rome, Italy*)

Konstadinos A. Plestis (*Philadelphia, USA*)

Roberto Pola (*Rome, Italy*)

Giorgia Polito (*Rome, Italy*)

Margherita Rando (*Rome, Italy*)

Maurizio Ridolfi (*Rome, Italy*)

Enrico Romagnoli (*Rome, Italy*)

Nicholas J. Ruggiero (*Philadelphia, USA*)

Tommaso Sanna (*Rome, Italy*)

Michele Santoro (*Rome, Italy*)

Andrea Scapigliati (*Rome, Italy*)

Giorgio Sesti (*Rome, Italy*)

Alessandro Sgambato (*Rome, Italy*)

Giovanni Tinelli (*Rome, Italy*)

Giuliano Tocci (*Rome, Italy*)

Carlo Trani (*Rome, Italy*)

Yamume Tshomba (*Rome, Italy*)

Friday 25th Sept 2026

PROGRAM

08:15 - 08:45 **Registration**

08:45 - 09:00 **INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS, OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME ADDRESS**

Alessandro Sgambato

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome

Daniele Piacentini

General Manager, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli - IRCCS

Antonio Gasbarrini

Scientific Director, Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli - IRCCS

Ignazio R. M. Marino

Emeritus Professor of Surgery, Thomas Jefferson University, USA - Member of the European Parliament

Massimo Massetti

Director of the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences, CUORE - Cardiovascular Unique Offer Re-Engineered - Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli - IRCCS

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 treat-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 levels 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
- 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?
Ilaria Di Diego
- 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, 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** **Day 1 closing remarks**

Saturday 26th Sept 2026

PROGRAM

09:00 - 09:10 Opening remarks and welcome address

SESSION 5

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

Chairs: **Massimo Massetti, Piergiorgio Bruno**

- 09:10 - 09:20** Closing the gap: how modern aortic surgery is redefining risk, recovery, and clinical outcomes
Federico Cammertoni
- 09:20 - 09:30** Beyond transfemoral: the new TAVI access toolbox for complex anatomy and broader eligibility
Enrico Romagnoli
- 09:30 - 09:40** The hybrid advantage: surgeon–interventionalist collaboration to treat the “untreatable” aortic valve patient
Mattia Lunardi
- 09:40 - 09:50** Aortic regurgitation: the unfinished story: why surgery still leads — and how transcatheter therapy is catching up
Nicholas J. Ruggiero
- 09:50 - 10:00** When the aortic valve is only the beginning: managing concomitant coronary and valve disease in elderly and high-risk patients
Giovanni Chiariello
- 10:00 - 10:10** The stenotic bicuspid aortic valve in 2026: myths and misconceptions between surgery and transcatheter aortic valve implantation
Carlo Trani
- 10:10 - 10:20** Small annulus, big problem: choosing between surgery, annular enlargement, and tavi to avoid patient–prosthesis mismatch
Maria Grandinetti

Saturday 26th Sept 2026

10:20 - 10:40 **Keynote Lecture:** Holistic approach to the management of aortic diseases in the 21st century
Konstadinos A. Plestis

10:40 - 11:00 **Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers**

11:00 - 11:30 ***Coffee Break & Networking***

SESSION 6

**Multidisciplinary Approach to TAAA Repair:
Hemodynamics, Neuroprotection and Technical Strategies**
Chairs: Yamume Tshomba, Paul J. Dimuzio

11:30 - 11:40 Spinal cord ischemia: why are we still losing the battle?
Ottavia Borghese

11:40 - 11:50 Organ protection 2.0: cutting-edge perfusion strategies, ischemia-reperfusion mitigation, and metabolic conditioning
Andrea Scapigliati

11:50 - 12:00 Extracorporeal circulation in TAAA: when, why, and how much?
Emanuele Gatta

12:00 - 12:10 Open TAAA Repair: the gold standard under siege
Efrem Civilini

12:10 - 12:20 Endovascular TAAA: are branched and fenestrated devices the new standard?
Wassim Mansour

12:20 - 12:30 Hybrid TAAA repair: redefining limits in patients we once considered inoperable
Giovanni Tinelli

Saturday 26th Sept 2026

- 12:30 - 12:50** Keynote Lecture: TAAA Repair in 2026: Are We Really Any Better Than 20 Years Ago?
Roberto Chiesa
- 12:50 - 13:10** Roundtable discussion and Q&A with all speakers
- 13:10 - 13:15** Conclusions and Closing Remarks



General Info

Congress Venue:

Meeting Room n. 810 - eighth floor wing A
Fondazione Policlinico A. Gemelli, IRCCS, Rome
L.go A. Gemelli 8

CME EVENT nb. 6364 - 490359

Learning Objective 1 - Application of the principles and procedures of evidence-based practice in daily practice (EBM - EBN - EBP)

Accredited profession: MEDICAL SURGEON

Specializations: CARDIOLOGY, GERIATRICS, METABOLIC DISEASES AND DIABETOLOGY, INTERNAL MEDICINE, CARDIAC SURGERY AND VASCULAR SURGERY

11 CME CREDITS

Type of event: RES

No of participants: 100 ATTENDEES

FOR INFO AND REGISTRATIONS CONTACT

Organizing secretariat and provider ecm n. 6364

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