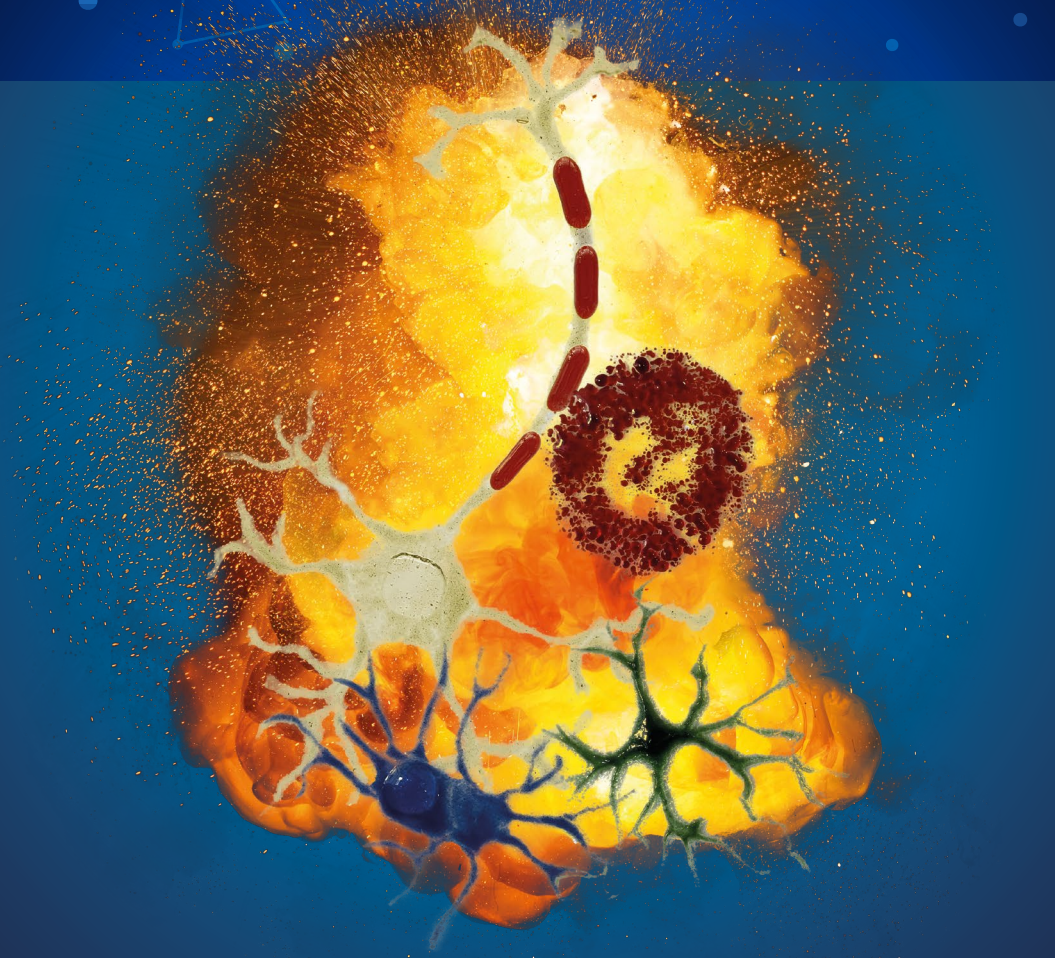
Fondazione
Francesco della Valle
PER LA RICERCA E LE CONOSCENZE
SULLA **NEUROINFIAMMAZIONE**

EXCELLENCE IN

NEUROINFLAMMATION

1st Meeting

18 OCTOBER 2025



Abbazia di
PRAGLIA
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Fondazione
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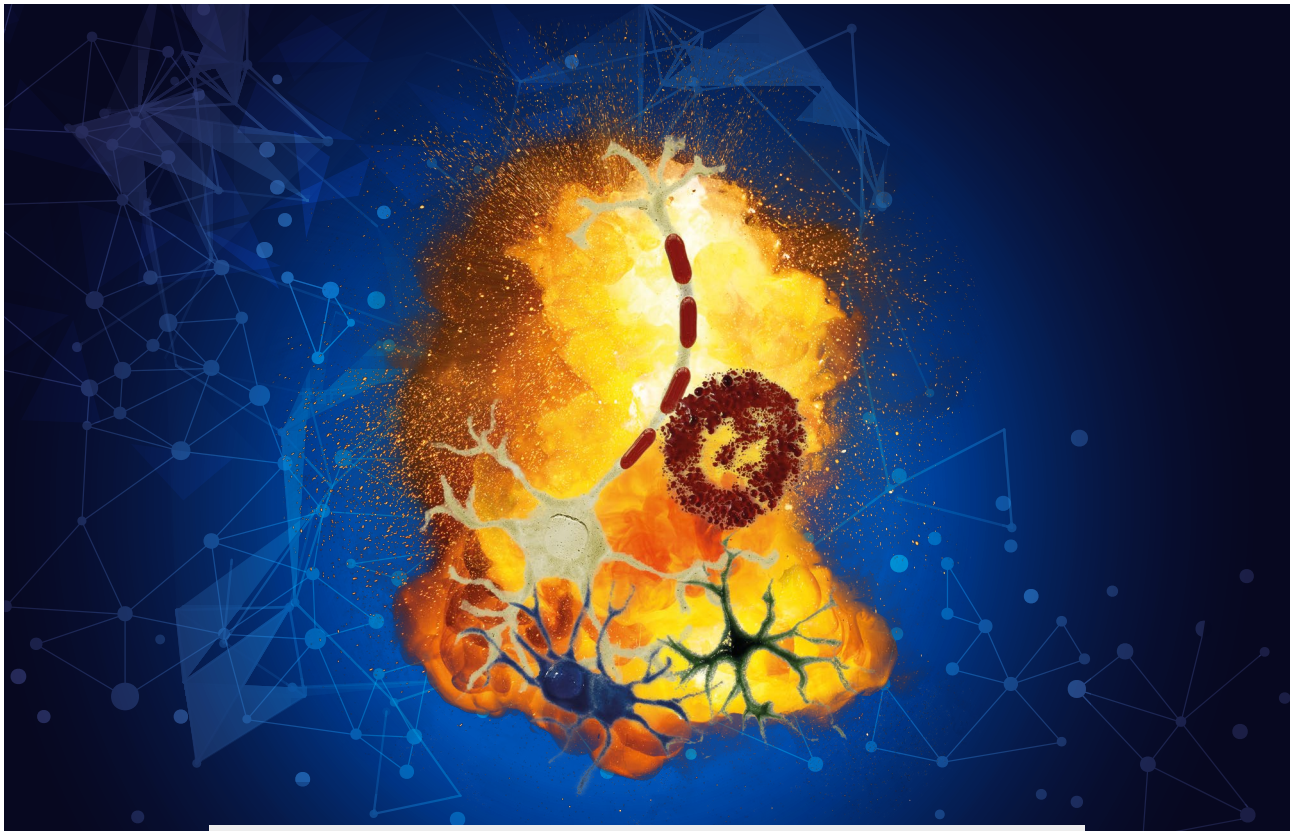
This meeting, organized with the valuable support of the Foundation's Scientific Committee, will be a full day dedicated to the topic of neuroinflammation.
The theme will be explored from multiple perspectives across three scientific sessions: Brain Health and Disease, Chronic Pain, and Metabolic and Neurodevelopmental Disorders.
The aim is to provide a concise yet high-impact overview of the latest scientific findings, highlighting both the pathological and potentially protective roles of neuroinflammation across a range of conditions.
The initiative is inspired by the **Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025** and, above all, by the outstanding research articles submitted by the selected young investigators.
The meeting is designed for young minds open to discussion, eager for exchange, and curious to discover new directions for their scientific journey.

My Father's greatest lesson?
To believe in the absolute power of ideas. To see them as something to be nurtured, developed, and shared.
Ideas meant to be exchanged freely, even with the youngest researchers, those able to look beyond the present and imagine what is yet to come.

Maria Federica della Valle, President of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle

Scientific Committee



Antonio **Calignano**

Salvatore **Cuzzocrea**

Vincenzo **Di Marzo**

Anthony **Dickenson**

Carla **Ghelardini**

Sabatino **Maione**

Rosaria **Meli**

Enzo **Molina**

Luca **Steardo**

Chairpersons

Antonio **Calignano**

Former Full Professor of Pharmacology. Former Director of the Department of Experimental Pharmacology, University of Naples Federico II, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Salvatore **Cuzzocrea**

Full Professor of Pharmacology Department of Chemical, Biological, Pharmaceutical and Environmental Sciences, University of Messina, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Vincenzo **Di Marzo**

Director of the International Joint Research Unit on Chemical and Biomolecular Studies of the Microbiome in Metabolic Health and Nutrition between the National Research Council CNR and Universite Laval, Canada, Research Director ICB-CNR Institute, Pozzuoli, Italy.
President of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Carla **Ghelardini**

Full Professor of Pharmacology, NEUROFARBA Department, University of Florence, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Enzo **Molina**

Former Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Medicine and Surgery, University of Parma, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Speakers

Yaseen **Awad-Igbaria**

Azrieli Faculty of Medicine, Bar-Ilan University, Safed, Israel.
Research Institute of Galilee Medical Center, Nahariya, Israel.
Honourable Mention at the Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025.

Andrés Mateo **Baraibar Sierra**

Department of Neurosciences, University of the Basque Country UPV EHU, Leioa, Spain.
Achucarro Basque Center for Neuroscience, Leioa, Spain.
Neuroinmunology Group, Biobizkaia Health Research Institute, Barakaldo - Spain.
Centro de Investigacion Biomedica en Red sobre Enfermedades Neurodegenerativas CIBERNED , Madrid, Spain.
Joint winner of the Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025.

Felipe **Correa-da-Silva**

Department of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Location AMC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Amsterdam Gastroenterology Endocrinology and Metabolism, Amsterdam.
Endocrine Laboratory, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Amsterdam University Medical Centers, Location AMC, Amsterdam.
Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, Amsterdam.
Honourable Mention at the Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025.

Anthony **Dickenson**

Full Professor of Neuropharmacology, Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology, University College of London, Great Britain.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Sabatino **Maione**

Full Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Experimental Medicine, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Davide **Mangani**

Institute for Research in Biomedicine, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Bellinzona, Switzerland.
Gene Lay Institute of Immunology and Inflammation, Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases, Harvard Medical School and Mass General Brigham, Boston, MA, USA.
Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, MA, USA.
Honourable Mention at the Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025.

Rosaria **Meli**

Full Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Pharmacy, University of Naples Federico II, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Stefano **Ministrini**

Center for Molecular Cardiology, Schlieren Campus, University of Zurich, Schlieren, Switzerland.
Honourable Mention at the Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025.

Luca **Steardo**

Former Full Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy, Department of Physiology and Pharmacology “Vittorio Erspamer” Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
Member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle.

Elizabeth M. **Wood**

Dominick P. Purpura Department of Neuroscience, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY, USA.
Joint winner of the Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award 2025.

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Programme

08:00 - 08:45	Registration.
08:45 - 09:00	Welcome and opening. *Vincenzo Di Marzo, Maria Federica della Valle*

SESSION 1

NEUROINFLAMMATION IN BRAIN HEALTH AND DISEASE

Chairspersons: **Vincenzo Di Marzo, Enzo Molina**

09:00 - 09:30	Janus faces of neuroinflammation protective and detrimental roles in brain function. *Luca Steardo*
09:30 - 09:50	Neuronal TLR9, genomic integrity and memory formation. *Elizabeth M. Wood*
09:50 - 10:10	When astrocyte-to-neuron communication goes wrong. *Andrés Mateo Baraibar Sierra*
10:10 - 10:20	TCF1 at the crossroad between T cells and autoimmune neuroinflammation. *Davide Mangani*
10:20 - 10:30	JCAD and neuroinflammation: new insights. *Stefano Ministrini*
10:30 - 11:00	Question time & discussion.
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break.

SESSION 2

NEUROINFLAMMATION AND CHRONIC PAIN

Chairspersons: **Carla Ghelardini, Salvatore Cuzzocrea**

11:30 - 12:00	Burning bridges: glial cells, neuroinflammation, and the persistence of pain. *Anthony Dickenson*
12:00 - 12:30	Spinal neuronal activity and neuroinflammatory component in chronic pain conditions. *Sabatino Maione*
12:30 - 12:40	Neuroinflammation and neuroplasticity in vulvar allodynia. *Yaseen Awad-Igbaria*
12:40 - 13:00	Question time & discussion.
13:00 - 14:00	Light Lunch.

SESSION 3

NEUROINFLAMMATION BRIDGING METABOLIC AND NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

Chairsperson: **Antonio Calignano**

14:00 - 14:30	The big fat brain wedding: unveiling the inflammatory crosstalk between adipose tissue and the brain. *Rosaria Meli*
14:30 - 14:40	Microglial contributions to neurodevelopmental disorders through the lens of Prader-Willi syndrome. *Felipe Correa-da-Silva*
14:40 - 15:00	Question time & discussion.
15:00 - 15:30	Excellence in Neuroinflammation Award Ceremony.
15:30 - 15:45	Closing remarks and the way forward.

Meeting Venue

Address:
Praglia Abbey conference Center
Via Abbazia di Praglia 16, 35037 Teolo (Padova, Italy)
Complimentary shuttle service from/to affiliated accommodations

Nearest airport:
Venice Marco Polo international airport (about 60 km)
Bus transfer to Padua **CLICK HERE**

Nearest train station:
Padua (about 10 km)

Participation

The Excellence in Neuroinflammation 1st Meeting welcomes a limited number of attendees (max 100 participants). **Registration is required** (see below).

Young Researcher Support

In keeping with the mission of the Fondazione Francesco della Valle to promote the growth of young scientists, registration is free for participants under 40 years of age; a 50% discount on hotel accommodation is also available for under-40 participants booking by **August 30, 2025.**

ECM accreditation pending

The ECM (Continuing Medical Education) accreditation process is currently underway for the following professionals Medical doctor (all disciplines), Biologist, Chemist, Pharmacist, Veterinarian.

REGISTER HERE
www.depratocongressi.it

The official language of the meeting is **English**.
Please note that no translation or interpretation services will be available.

Meeting Secretariat

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The Foundation was established in 2023 by the heirs of Francesco della Valle, a visionary entrepreneur and prominent figure in the Italian pharmaceutical industry. It was founded as a Third Sector organization with the goal of preserving and promoting the intangible legacy of his ideas, values, and projects. At the heart of this legacy is the vision of a Foundation devoted to young researchers, supporting their education and scientific work. Above all, it aims to foster their enthusiasm and curiosity essential qualities for advancing scientific knowledge, particularly in emerging fields such as neuroinflammation.

Francesco della Valle - Biography

Francesco della Valle was born in Rome on December 13, 1937. He graduated in Chemistry from Sapienza University of Rome in 1961 and completed a specialization in Pharmacology at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in 1962. He began his professional career at IRBI, a pharmaceutical company, where he worked for five years as Head of Production. In 1968, he joined Fidia Farmaceutici in Abano Terme (Padua), where he served as Technical Director and later as CEO and General Manager. In 1991, he left Fidia to found his own company (initially Lifegroup, later Epitech Group). He was named Cavaliere del Lavoro by the Italian Republic in 1987. He also received honorary degrees in Pharmacy (University of Padua), Biomedical Science (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.), and Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies (University of Ferrara). Throughout his career, he combined scientific insight with entrepreneurial vision, always convinced that research could lead to practical, innovative tools for improving health. Beyond his professional achievements, he had a lifelong passion for the mountains. In his younger years, he climbed and opened new routes on the Gran Sasso and the Tre Cime di Lavaredo. His guiding motto “Non c’è sosta se non sulla cima” (There is no rest except on the summit) remained with him in every challenge he faced, in work and in life.