



2013 – Year of Italian Culture in the U.S.

**Symposium at the Embassy of Italy**

"I Am Not My Body. I Am My Mind: in memory of Rita Levi-Montalcini –  
Foresight in medicine: research induced society changes in the next decade"

In collaboration with  
Georgetown University Italian Research Institute and ISSNAF

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - 10.00am : 5.30pm

EMBASSY OF ITALY: Auditorium

3000 Whitehaven St., NW - Washington, DC 20008

The symposium hosts a debate among scientists, doctors, policy makers and epistemologists aimed at identifying forthcoming medical research developments likely to impact on society in the next ten years.

Personalized (or precision) medicine is the changing paradigm and will reshape service contents and delivery modalities. The main clinical areas where major progress is expected are cancer, neurodegenerative disorders, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, rare diseases, dysmetabolic and endocrine system related diseases. Progress in imaging, the application of nanotechnologies, the use of robotics, wired environments and telematics, portable devices, stem cells and new materials will make personalized medicine feasible and affordable. At the same time, epigenetics, pharmacogenomics, synthetic biology will contribute extensively to change further medicine and its social aspects, and will need to be regulated by a new bioethical approach.

To register: [click here](#)



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Georgetown University  
Italian Research Institute

09.00 – 10.00	Registration and Symposium presentation Ranieri Guerra, Scientific Attache', Embassy of Italy		
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claudio Bisogniero</li> <li>• Sergio Pecorelli</li> <li>• Sara Hager</li> <li>• Vito Campese</li> </ul>	<p>Ambassador of Italy to the US</p> <p>President, AIFA, Italian Medicinal Agency, and Rector, University of Brescia</p> <p>Director and founder, Georgetown University Italian Research Institute</p> <p>Chief, Division of Nephrology/Hypertension Keck School of Medicine University of Southern California</p>
10.15 – 11.00	The Road to Stockholm. A Nobel Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Louis Ignarro</li> </ul>	Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology, Department of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, and Professor, Department of Pharmacology, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles. Nobel Laureate, 1998
11.00 – 12.00 SESSION 1: THE PARADIGM	Personalized (or precision) medicine is the great promise and the great challenge: will the health sector paradigm change? Will health services contents and delivery modalities change and how? How will this impact on system equity and sustainability?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: Robert Clarke</li> <li>• Discussant: David Aylward</li> <li>• Panel members</li> </ul>	<p>Dean for Research, Georgetown University Medical Center, interim director of Biomedical Graduate Research Organization, a professor of oncology</p> <p>Senior Advisor, Global Health and Technology, Ashoka Global Headquarters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antonio Giordano, Temple University - President and Founder of the Sbarro Health Research Organization</li> <li>• Salvatore Sechi, Director, Proteomic Program and Diabetes Systems Biology Program, NIDDK/NIH</li> <li>• Mario Strazzabosco, Director, Transplant Hepatology, Yale School of Medicine</li> </ul>
Q&A and Discussion			

<p>12.00 – 13.00 SESSION 2: THE CONTENTS</p> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>	<p>Focal clinical areas where major progress is expected are cancer, neuro-degenerative disorders, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, rare diseases, dysmetabolic and endocrine system related diseases. How science and technology will impact on diseases, their prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation? What will be patients' life expectancy? Will there be an impact on survival quality? Will palliative care improve? And how will the health systems cope with an ageing and fragile population?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: Pierpaolo Pandolfi</li> <li>• Discussant: Jacopo Annese</li> <li>• Panel members</li> </ul>	<p>Director of the Cancer Center and the Cancer Research Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston (BIDMC)</p> <p>Director, The Brain Observatory. Department of Radiology. University of California, San Diego</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michele Papa, Dept. Mental Health, Second University of Naples</li> <li>• Andrea Soddu, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Western University (Canada)</li> <li>• Alessandro Vercelli, Neuroscience Institute, Cavalieri Ottolenghi Foundation</li> <li>• Lorenzo Falchi, Yale University School of Medicine, Dept. Internal Medicine</li> </ul>
<p>13.00 – 14.00</p>	<p>Lunch</p>		
<p>14.00 – 15.00 SESSION 3: THE TECHNOLOGIES</p> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>	<p>Progress in imaging, the application of nanotechnologies, the use of robotics, wired environments and telematics, portable devices (e.g., biosensors), stem cells and new materials will make personalized medicine feasible and affordable, will improve treatment effectiveness and life quality. Affordability will remain a challenge, unless the public and private sectors collaborate strictly. Financing of research and new technologies will compete with service delivery demand</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: Richard Canady</li> <li>Discussants:</li> <li>• Fiorenzo Omenetto</li> <li>• Alessandra Luchini</li> </ul>	<p>Director, Center for Risk Science Innovation and Application (RSIA), ILSI Research Foundation</p> <p>Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Frank C. Doble Professor, Biomedical Engineering Department, Tufts University</p> <p>Research Assistant Professor, Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine, George Mason University</p>

<p>15.00 – 16.00 SESSION 4: THE IMPLICATIONS</p> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>	<p>Epigenetics, pharmacogenomics, synthetic biology will contribute extensively to change further medicine and its social aspects, and will need to be regulated by a new bioethical approach. New frontiers are likely to be explored challenging the current ethical doctrine and intellectual property framework. How is the current regulatory system equipped to deal with major breakthroughs expected from science?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: George Atkinson</li> <li>• Discussant: Clem Bezold</li> </ul>	<p>Founder and executive director, Institute on Science for Global Policy, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and of Optical Sciences, University of Arizona, previous Science and Technology Adviser to U.S. Secretaries of State</p> <p>Founder and chairman of the Institute for Alternative Futures</p>
<p>16.00 – 17.00 SESSION 4: THE COVERAGE</p> <p>Q&amp;A and Discussion</p>	<p>The poor and marginalized population segments will continue to be excluded from the main benefits of medical progress, unless the public sector manages to reorient health systems in a more equitable way. Health literacy will inevitably increase, and so demand and expectations. M-health and social media will be universally available tools to access care and to make the health sector responsive to needs, and liable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keynote speaker: Roberta Scherer</li> <li>• Discussant: Kendall Ho</li> <li>• Panel members</li> </ul>	<p>Associate Director of the US Cochrane Center (USCC), Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health</p> <p>Director, eHealth Strategy Office, Department of Emergency Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, The University of British Columbia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Mateja De Leoni Stanonik Center For Neurosciences, University of Arizona, former Chief Medical Officer, Slovenia</li> <li>• Dr. Juan Manuel Sotelo, President Global Health International Advisor (GHIA)</li> <li>• Dr. Helga Rippen, Vice President, Westat, Inc.</li> <li>• Dr. Pedro Ramos Contreras, Jefe de Departamento de Telemedicina y Telesalud, Secretaria de Salud de Nuevo Leon, Mexico</li> <li>• Ms. Susannah Fox, Associate Director, Digital Strategy Pew Internet &amp; American Life Project</li> </ul>
<p>17.00 – 17.15</p>	<p>Conclusions and the way forward: the Italian foresight center</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giorgio Einaudi</li> </ul>	<p>Executive Director, Italian Foresight Center</p>
<p><b>All day:</b> <i>Recording and interviews</i></p>	<p><i>Symposium proceedings</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Christopher Berrie</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Science writer</i></p>