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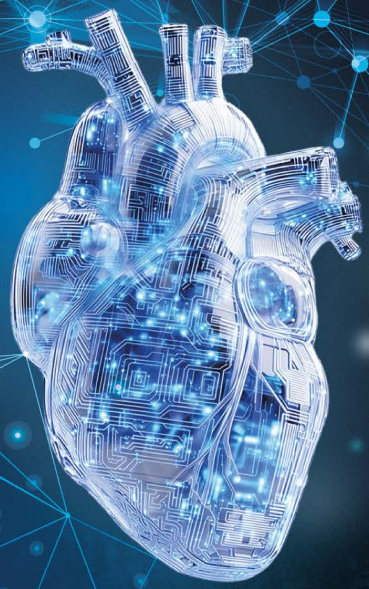
FONDAZIONE MENARINI

S.I.S.A. FOUNDATION
For the Advancement of Research on Arteriosclerotic Diseases

50 YEARS OF FONDAZIONE MENARINI



HOUSE OF SCIENCES
Fiesole, Italy

Artificial Intelligence and Cardiovascular Risk Assessment

International Workshop Programme

WWW.FONDAZIONE-MENARINI.COM

16th–18th September 2026

Auditorium Fondazione Menarini, Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi, 30, 50014 Fiesole (FI)

WHO WE ARE

50
YEARS OF
FONDAZIONE
MENARINI

The **"Fondazione Menarini"** was established in the spring of **1976** to promote research and knowledge in the fields of biology, pharmacology and medicine as well as economy and human sciences.
One of the main tools the Foundation uses to achieve its goals is the organization of **international congresses** with a specific focus on medical disciplines.

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The logo the **Fondazione Menarini** adopted at the time of its establishment derives from a famous seventeenth-century treatise, the **Novissima Iconologia del Ripa** (Ripas' New Iconology), rich in symbolic meanings from Parmenides to Plato's Myth of the Soul.
The image, which depicts a man leading a horse while firmly gripping the bridle, was chosen as it effectively represents the Foundation's goals and topics based on its **balanced interests in humanistic and biological sciences.**

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RATIONALE

Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) remains the leading global cause of mortality, despite substantial advances in prevention, risk factors control, and pharmacological therapy. Traditional risk prediction models, largely derived from population-based cohorts and based on a limited set of classical well known risk factors, have provided an important framework for estimating cardiovascular risk. However, while useful at the population level, these models fall short when applied to individual patients. They may inadequately capture heterogeneity across age groups, sex, ethnicity, and genetic background, and frequently fail to account for lifetime exposure and dynamic changes in risk, thereby contributing to persistent residual cardiovascular burden.

In recent years, the rapid expansion of large-scale biobanks, electronic health records, advanced imaging modalities, and multi-omics platforms has profoundly transformed the landscape of cardiovascular risk assessment. These resources provide an unprecedented opportunity to move beyond static and simplified risk estimation toward a more comprehensive and dynamic understanding of disease processes. When combined with artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning approaches, these datasets enable the integration of complex, multidimensional information, capturing interactions between biological, environmental, and behavioural determinants that often are not accessible through conventional models.

Such approaches hold the potential to redefine cardiovascular prevention by enabling more precise, individualized risk stratification, earlier identification of high-risk phenotypes, and more targeted therapeutic interventions. At the same time, they may help to better characterize subclinical disease, refine treatment thresholds, and optimize allocation of healthcare resources.

However, important challenges remain. These include the interpretability and transparency of AI-driven models, the need for rigorous validation across diverse populations and healthcare systems, issues related to data quality and bias, and the practical integration of these tools into clinical workflows. Ethical considerations, including data governance and patient privacy, also represent critical aspects that must be addressed to ensure responsible implementation.

This workshop in Fiesole is designed to address these opportunities and challenges by combining high-level plenary lectures with interactive, hands-on sessions. The program will provide participants with both a strong conceptual framework and practical skills, fostering a multidisciplinary dialogue between cardiology, data science, and public health. The ultimate aim is to empower clinicians and researchers to critically evaluate, interpret, and apply big data and AI tools in real-world settings, thereby contributing to more effective and sustainable cardiovascular prevention strategies.

Alberico Luigi Catapano

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

S.I.S.A. FOUNDATION
For the Advancement of Research on Arteriosclerotic Diseases

PRESIDENT

Alberico Luigi Catapano
Fondazione SISA (Milan, IT)

CO-ORGANIZED BY

FONDAZIONE MENARINI

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ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

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WEDNESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - AFTERNOON

01.00 p.m. - 06.00 p.m. Pre-meeting speakers' discussion and programme updates
All Speakers

THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - MORNING

08.30 a.m. - 08.45 a.m. Welcome addresses and Introduction
A. L. Catapano (Milan, IT), **I. Graham** (Dublin, IE)

08.45 a.m. - 09.00 a.m. Institutional greetings: Fondazione Menarini
G. Caracciolo (Florence, IT)

09.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. Opening Keynote Lecture: Artificial Intelligence in Cardiovascular Medicine: Hype, Reality, and Clinical Aspects
T.Lüscher (London, UK)

SESSION I - CV RISK ASSESMENT: FROM SCORES TO INDIVIDUAL RISK

10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Lecture 1
Current risk estimation systems, including SCORE
I. Graham (Dublin, IE)

11.00 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. Lecture 2
AI: review of options
J. Kelleher (Dublin, IE)

11.45a.m. - 12.15 p.m. *Coffee Break*

12.15 p.m. - 12.45 p.m. Lecture 3
Genetics: before, after, or during risk estimation
M. Kavousi (Rotterdam, NL)

12.45 p.m. - 01.15 p.m. Lecture 4
Deep causal AI and risk: a working model
B. Ference (Cambridge, UK)

01.15 p.m. - 02.15 p.m. *Lunch Buffet*

THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER - AFTERNOON

SESSION II - YOUNG INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP

02.15 p.m. - 06.15 p.m.	The Anatomy of a Prediction Pipeline: Hands-On Model Training and Explainability for Cardiovascular Risk PredictionStructured Group Work (30 Young Researchers) **B. Dalpedri** (Trento, IT), **A. Zen** (Trento, IT)
06.15 p.m. - 06.45 p.m.	*Coffee Break*
06.45 p.m. - 07.00 p.m.	Survey Event: Satisfaction survey with certificate

FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - MORNING

SESSION III - GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND CONSOLIDATION

08.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.	Group Presentations and Discussion
10.30 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	*Coffee Break*
11.00 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	Plenary Discussion
12.00 p.m. - 12.15 p.m.	Survey Event: Satisfaction survey with certificate
12.15 p.m. - 12.45 p.m.	Closing Session and Next Steps
12.45 p.m. - 01.45 p.m.	*Lunch Buffet*

FRIDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - AFTERNOON

01.45 p.m. - 04.00 p.m.	Post meeting speaker's discussion

FACULTY

Catapano Alberico Luigi	Center for the Study of Atherosclerosis, IRCCS MultiMedica, Sesto San Giovanni Department of Pharmacological and Biomolecular Sciences University of Milan Bassini Hospital, Cinisello Balsamo SISA Foundation Milan (IT)
Dalpedri Beatrice	Bruno Kessler Foundation Trento (IT)
Ference Brian	Cambridge Deep Causal AI Institute for Clinical Translation Cambridge (UK)
Graham Ian	School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin Dublin (IE)
Kavousi Maryam	Department of Epidemiology Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (NL)
Kelleher John	ADAPT Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin Dublin (IE)
Lüscher Thomas	Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) King's College London, Imperial College London London (UK)
Zen Andrea	Bruno Kessler Foundation(FBK) Trento (IT)

EMERGING LEADERS

Bertulazzi Riccardo
Presidio Ospedaliero di Gardone Val Trompia
ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia
Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences
University of Brescia
Brescia (IT)

Bertella Nazarena
Humanitas Gavazzeni
Bergamo (IT)

Bianconi Vanessa
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Perugia University Hospital System
University of Perugia
Perugia (IT)

Burrello Jacopo
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Turin (IT)

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Biella (IT)

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(SEFAP) “Rodolfo Paoletti”
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Milan (IT)

Croce Alessandro
Centre for Hypertension and Cardiovascular Prevention
IRCCS Istituto Auxologico Italiano
Milan (IT)

Comi Chiara
Grossi Paoletti Center
Department of Pharmacological
and Biomolecular Sciences (DISFEB)
University of Milan
Milan (IT)

De Feo Daniele	Ospedale San Paolo, ASL Bari Bari (IT)
De Simone Lucia	IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna Sant'Orsola Hospital, Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna Bologna (IT)
Di Lorenzo Chiara	Ph.D. Student in Translational Medical Sciences, University of Naples Federico II (A.I.F.), Department of Internal Medicine and Clinical Complexity Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Federico II di Napoli Naples (IT)
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Goi Jessica	Department of Medical Sciences, University of Turin Turin (IT)
Greco Alessia	Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine and Surgery University of Perugia Perugia (IT)
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Ricciardi Riccardo Mattia	Department of Medicine and Aging Sciences “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara Chieti (IT)
Rizzo Riccardo	Università degli Studi di Milano IRCCS MultiMedica Milano (IT)
Scotti Stefano	Epidemiology and Preventive Pharmacology Service (SEFAP), Department of Pharmacological and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Milan Milan (IT)
Shehu Artenca	Department of Medicine and Aging Sciences SS. Annunziata Hospital “G. d’Annunzio” University of Chieti-Pescara Chieti (IT)
Veneziano Francesco Antonio	Cardiology Unit, Department of Cardiology, Ospedali Riuniti Padova Sud, ULSS 6 Euganea, Monselice Padua (IT)
Zancanaro Giacomo	SISA - Società Italiana per lo Studio dell’Aterosclerosi Padua (IT)
Zeynali Amir Bahman	Department of Pharmacological and Biomolecular Sciences, University of Milan Milan (IT)

GENERAL INFORMATIONS

VENUE
Auditorium Fondazione Menarini, Piazza Giuseppe Garibaldi, 30, 50014 Fiesole (FI)

WIFI
Wifi: Guest
Password: Event-23

SECRETARIAT
The Secretariat will be open at the following times:
Wednesday, 16th September from 01.00 p.m. to 07.00 p.m.
Thursday, 17th September from 08.30 a.m. to 06.00 p.m.
Friday, 18th September from 08.30 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
The official language of the Meeting will be english.
Simultaneous translation won't be provided

REGISTRATION
The meeting is free to attend.
For more information and to register please visit the following website:
www.fondazione-menarini.com

TECHNICAL FACILITIES
Facilities will be available for computer presentations and overhead projections.
A business center with PC (Powerpoint for Windows) will be available for check and preview of presentations. It is essential that speakers take their presentation to the business center at least one hour before the session starts.

The center will be open at the following times:
Wednesday, 16th September from 01.00 p.m. to 07.00 p.m.
Thursday, 17th September from 08.30 a.m. to 06.00 p.m.
Friday, 18th September from 08.30 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.

LUNCHES AND COFFEE BREAKS
Lunches and welcome coffee will be served near the meeting area.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATE AND SURVEY
At the end of each day, faculty members and participants will have the possibility to answer a short appreciation questionnaire accessible using the QR code projected on the screen. After completing the survey it will immediately be possible to download the Attendance Certificate which can be kept, printed and shared.

NOTES

NOTES

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All slides and presentations are available on our website 15 days after the event.

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