



RMIT
UNIVERSITY

REDI



REDI Conference 2026

Agenda

Venue: TBS Education

Carrer de Veneçuela, 116, 08019 Barcelona



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101034328. This publication reflects only the author's view and the Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

What's next...



About the REDI Conference

RMIT Europe is delighted to bring together members of the REDI Program and the wider scientific community for its final conference, a showcase and celebration of the REDI fellows as they conclude their doctoral studies.

The agenda has been designed with the following objectives in mind:

- Celebrate the achievements of the REDI Program.
- Showcase achievements and results from the REDI fellows' doctoral research.
- Reflect on learnings, good practices and lessons from the REDI Program.
- Learn about different careers available after finishing a PhD from people working in diverse areas from industry and academia, including entrepreneurs and researchers who have set up their own labs.
- Build connections through networking activities and explore new collaborations and research ideas.

Event venue

TBS Education
Carrer de Venèçuela, 116
Sant Martí
08019 Barcelona

REDI Event Team

Members of the REDI Event Team are wearing name badges with a yellow background. Please approach them if you need assistance during the event.

Photography and videography

There will be a professional photographer at the event on 21 and 22 July and a professional videographer at the venue on 21 July. Members of the RMIT Europe team will also be taking photos and short videos for social media. Videos and photographs from the REDI Conference may be used on the REDI website, REDI social media and REDI partner channels. If you would not like to appear in photos or videos, please inform a member of the REDI Event Team at the registration desk.



About the REDI Program

The **REDI (RMIT European Doctoral Innovators) Program** is a unique PhD training program offering industry-supported positions across Europe and international secondments at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. This unique community brings together 40 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) fellows conducting doctoral research in diverse topics spanning science, engineering, design and architecture. REDI brings together academic and industry leaders across 60+ supporting partners.

REDI is coordinated by **RMIT Europe**, the European hub of RMIT University, a global university of technology, design and enterprise with campuses in Australia and Vietnam. Based in Barcelona, RMIT Europe is the university's gateway for European research, industry, government and enterprise to innovation and talent in Australia and Asia.



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Follow REDI



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PhD Research Showcase and Career Day

On 21 and 22 July, we welcome the wider scientific community to the **PhD Research Showcase and Career Day**.

PhD Research Showcase – 21 July

MSCA Fellows from the REDI Program will present results, achievements and breakthroughs from their research. For more information, refer to the REDI Conference [abstract booklet](#).

PhD Career Day – 22 July

Explore diverse career opportunities possible after a PhD through presentations and discussions with doctoral graduates.

The PhD Career Day is a collaboration between RMIT Europe, the [Bridging Science and Business Working Group of the MCAA](#), the [MCAA Spain-Portugal Chapter](#) and [ACCIÓ](#) (L'Agència per a la Competitivitat de L'Empresa).

How to participate online

Hybrid sessions can be accessed via the following links:

Sessions in the **Aula Magna**: <https://tbs-education-fr.zoom.us/j/97968820087?pwd=eQybq8ezLYzJb6FkY5kgSSJYXIfG2H.1>

Sessions in **Rooms 102 and 103**: <https://tbs-education-fr.zoom.us/j/92486983022?pwd=DSgLaGOiJnEWxFliDz1W8IDrNgYk6.1>



In collaboration with:





Networking guide

To facilitate networking at the REDI Conference, participants have been assigned symbols on their name badges according to the discipline or area of expertise they specified during the event registration process.

Using these symbols as a reference, we encourage you to make new connections, explore new collaborations or simply enter into conversations on different topics!

Discipline key

-  Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
-  Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Science
-  Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
-  Urban Studies, Architecture and Built Environment
-  Sustainability, Circular Economy and Environmental Innovation
-  Aerospace, Mobility and Transport Systems
-  Natural Sciences, Chemistry and Physics
-  Health, Bioengineering and Life Sciences
-  Business, Management and Innovation Studies
-  Social Sciences, Culture and Humanities

Time CET	Session	Location
9:00 - 9:30	Registration and welcome coffee	Attic (level 7)
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome and opening remarks Welcome by Marta Fernandez, CEO, RMIT Europe Video message by Distinguished Professor Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation and Vice-President, RMIT University REDI Program overview by Kinga Konya, Project Manager, RMIT Europe	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
10:00 - 10:45	REDI online presentations REDI fellows on secondment in Melbourne will connect online to give a short update on their research. Presenters: • Nabi Agzamov, 5th Studio and RMIT University • Mazhar Iqbal, ICN2 and RMIT University • Ridhima Kaul, FH Aachen and RMIT University • Runeal Ramma, CIMNE and RMIT University • Eslam Salaheldin, University of Twente and RMIT University • Qing Yu, Politecnico di Milano and RMIT University	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break	Attic (level 7)

Download the
REDI Conference
abstract booklet



Time CET	Session	Location
11:15 - 12:45	REDI panel: Circular economy and climate adaptation REDI fellows from different research disciplines come together in this multidisciplinary panel to discuss circular economy and climate adaptation and how their research addresses global challenges. Speakers: • Jose Manuel Crego Lozares, TU Hamburg and RMIT University • Charu Negi, Max Planck Institute and RMIT University • Ananthakrishna Sajithkumar, Eurecat and RMIT University • Daniel Stabler, LUT University and RMIT University • Francesca Vanelli, Politecnico di Milano and RMIT University Moderated by Doina Huso, University of Agder and RMIT University	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
12:45 - 14:15	Networking lunch in the poster session/exhibition area Standing lunch for participants to view posters and talk to exhibitors.	Attic (level 7)
14:15 - 15:45	REDI panel: Liveable and inclusive cities and communities REDI fellows from different research disciplines come together in this multidisciplinary panel to discuss liveable and inclusive cities and communities and how their research addresses global challenges. Speakers: • Milica Bozic, Politecnico di Milano and RMIT University • Ali Khamis, Aalto University and RMIT University • Björn Komander, IIIA-CSIC and RMIT University • Viet Hung Pham, TU Eindhoven and RMIT University Moderated by Yaxin Zheng, TU Eindhoven and RMIT University	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
15:45 - 17:15	Networking coffee in the poster session/exhibition area Coffee break for participants to view posters and talk to exhibitors.	Attic (level 7)

Download the
REDI Conference
abstract booklet

PhD Career Day (22 July)



Time CET	Session	Location
9:00 - 9:30	Registration and welcome coffee	Attic (level 7)
9:30 - 10:00	Welcome and opening remarks Welcome by Maria Gabriela Irrazabal, Research Fellow, RMIT Europe Opening presentation by Joaquin Capablo, Vice-Chair, MCAA Board	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
10:00 - 11:30	Info session: MSCA postdoctoral and ERC opportunities Presentation and Q&A with Xavier Ronald Eekhout Chicharro, EURAXESS Spain and MSCA NCP Spain Presentation and Q&A with Julio Marchamalo Amado, ERC and MSCA NCP Spain	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break	Attic (level 7)



In collaboration with:



PhD Career Day (22 July)



Time CET	Session	Location
12:00 - 13:30	Roundtable discussion: Careers after the PhD Academics and experienced researchers from both academia and industry are invited to share their own career paths after completing their PhD. This session is divided in two blocks of 45 minutes (guided questions and Q&A). The first block focuses on careers in academia whilst the second block focuses on careers in industry. Careers in research and academia Speakers: • Michele Chiumenti, Professor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya • Dorota Natalia Komar, Senior Scientist, Eurecat • Rosa Vilaplana, Head of Sustainable Food and Farming Systems Team, CT BETA UVic Moderated by Daniel Stabler, REDI fellow, LUT University and RMIT University Careers beyond academia Speakers: • Richard Dasselaar, Chairman and Advisor - Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Cardiology and Costing Working Group, International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth • Daniel Esteban-Ferrer, CEO, VRAIn • Franziska Püschel, Brand Lead Oncology, AstraZeneca • Pietro Tonini, CEO, Tectum Garden Moderated by Misia Czaplicka, REDI fellow, Polytechnic University of Turin and RMIT University	Aula Magna (level 7) or click to join online
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch	TBS cafeteria (ground floor)
14:30 - 15:00	Innovation and technology transfer Motivational talk by Nelson García-Polanco, Chair, MCAA Spain-Portugal Chapter	Rooms 102 and 103 (level 1)



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PhD Career Day (22 July)



Time CET	Session	Location
15:00 - 16:30	Interactive round table discussions with academia and industry Rotating sessions between invited guests (academia, industry, startups, technological centres, non-profit entities, etc.) and conference participants. After a short introduction, participants will gather in small groups around a table for a short Q&A with their selected speakers. After 20 minutes, participants will move to their next chosen table. Table 1: Careers in research (technology centres) Chat with a scientist, communicator and PI (epigenetics and biomarker research): Dorota Natalia Komar, Senior Scientist, Eurecat Table 2: Postdoctoral (MSCA) research careers Chat with Cecilia Gonzales, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellow (AuSpire Program), Cetaqua Table 3: Postdoctoral research and research funding in Spain Chat with Jorge Albalad, Ramón y Cajal Researcher and Subgroup Leader at ICN2 Table 4: Careers in industry Chat with Franziska Püschel, Brand Lead Oncology, AstraZeneca Table 5: Learn more about MSCA and ERC opportunities at postdoctoral level Chat with Xavier Ronald Eekhout Chicharro, EURAXESS Spain and MSCA NCP Spain and Julio Marchamalo Amado, ERC and MSCA NCP Spain Table 6: Entrepreneurship and science Chat with Murat Gunes, Chair of the MCAA BSB Working Group and Nelson García Polanco, Chair of MCAA Spain-Portugal Chapter	Rooms 102 and 103 (level 1)



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PhD Career Day (22 July)



Time CET	Session	Location
15:00 - 16:30	Interactive round table discussions with academia and industry (continued) Table 7: Careers in research translation Chat with Simone Fratta, Research Translation Manager, Cancer Research Horizons and Blanca Pina, Vice-Chair of of the MCAA BSB Working Group Table 8: Careers in project management Chat with Joaquin Capablo, Vice-Chair, MCAA Board who is managing MSCA doctoral and postdoctoral programs in Zaragoza, Spain Table 9: Careers in medtech, healthcare, AI strategy and governance Chat with Richard Dasselaar, Chairman and Advisor - Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Cardiology and Costing Working Group, International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth Table 10: Interdisciplinary research careers Chat with Nevena Marković, Vice-Chair of the MCAA Western Balkans Chapter	Rooms 102 and 103 (level 1)
16:30 - 17:30	Farewell coffee	Attic (level 7)



In collaboration with:





Invited speakers



Jorge Albalad

Ramón y Cajal Researcher and Subgroup Leader at ICN2

I am a Ramón y Cajal Researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), where I lead a research subgroup within the Supramolecular Nanochemistry and Materials Group at ICN2. My research focuses on the design, post-synthetic modification, and structural transformation of porous materials, mainly covalent organic frameworks (COFs), to develop smart materials poised for application. My team has contributed to the development of Clip-off Chemistry, a novel synthetic strategy that enables the programmed disassembly of COF precursors into previously inaccessible molecules and materials. This work has led to high-impact publications, patents, and important international collaborations with Nobel laureates. I am passionate about advancing reticular materials and connecting them to themolecular chemistry all Chemists know and love.



Robyn Barnacle

Associate Professor, RMIT University

Professor Robyn Barnacle is a research education specialist passionate about supporting researchers and creating a more just world through education, research and culture change. Robyn occupies a unique, university-wide researcher development and leadership role at RMIT. She leads various cross-disciplinary research, researcher development, curriculum and professional development programs and initiatives. This includes leading professional development programs for both Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates and supervisors across the university. She also leads award winning, university-wide culture change initiatives, such as the Respectful Research Training Program. In addition, Robyn co-leads a range of cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral research projects, such as examining gender equality, diversity and inclusion in research workplaces and learning environments.



Joaquín Capablo

Vice-Chair, MCAA Board

Current Vice-Chair of the Board of the Marie Curie Alumni Association, with more than 24.000 members all around the world. Joaquín studied chemical engineering at the University of Zaragoza, with an Erasmus experience in Germany (FHT Esslingen). With a PhD in Fluid Mechanics at LIFTEC (a CSIC's Research Center), several research stays (CHEC-DTU, IREC and FURV) and some teaching experience as FPU Fellow (from Spanish Government), his research field includes thermal, fluid mechanics and chemical technologies. After his PhD, Joaquín was awarded a 2-years Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship as Experienced Researcher in Italy on an IAPP project (Green Kitchen) involving a company (Whirlpool) and 3 Universities in 3 countries (SUPSI, Polimi and Univ. Wroclaw). Afterwards, Joaquín was recruited by the Bosch Group for its Heat Pump Competence Center as innovation expert in dryers and washer-dryers. Since 2021, he coordinates Marie Skłodowska-Curie doctoral and postdoctoral programmes in a consortium of 4 universities in Spain.



Invited speakers



Michele Chiumenti

Professor, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Professor Michele Chiumenti is a Full Professor of Continuum Mechanics and Structural Analysis at UPC and a Full Research Professor at CIMNE. A graduate of Politecnico di Milano (1994) with a Ph.D. from UPC (1999), he is a renowned expert in non-linear computational mechanics, having published over 150 JCR-indexed articles and monographs (h-index=43, Scopus). Recently, his outstanding international career was recognized with the prestigious 2025 Academia Excellence award (formerly ICREA Academia) and as a Guarantor of the Severo Ochoa Excellence Program (2019-2023) at CIMNE. Furthermore, he has been awarded prestigious international distinctions from the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of China through both the Overseas Talents from the Excellent Scientists Fund (2022) and the High-end Experts Recruitment Program (2014-2016). He is the co-chairman of the prestigious COMPLAS conference series and is a member of SEMNI since 1999. Throughout his career, he has led numerous European and Spanish-funded research projects focusing on finite element technologies for structural and failure analysis. His current research specializes in the coupled thermo-mechanical analysis of advanced manufacturing processes, including metal Additive Manufacturing and Friction Stir Welding.



Richard Dasselaar

Chairman and Advisor - Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Cardiology and Costing Working Group, International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth

Richard Dasselaar is Chair of the AI in Cardiology and Costing Working Group at the International Society for Telemedicine and eHealth (ISfTeH), in official relations with the WHO, and serves as WHO Global Digital Health Monitor for the Netherlands. His career spans MedTech, pharma, and digital health across Europe, the US, India, and Africa — including senior roles at Zimmer Biomet, Royal Philips, and Dentsply. He leads an international research program across three continents focused on longitudinal prognostic AI for the early detection of heart failure and its associated costs. Named a Global Top 30 AI Leader in 2025 alongside Fei-Fei Li and Cassie Kozyrkov, Richard's work is driven by a single mission: eliminating preventable cardiovascular death through earlier, smarter diagnosis.



Xavier Ronald Eekhout Chicharro

EURAXESS Spain and MSCA National Contact Point Spain

Xavier Eekhout holds a degree in Biology from the University of Alcalá and a university specialist qualification in the promotion, drafting, and management of European R&I projects from the Technical University of Madrid (UPM). At FECYT, he worked as coordinator for the EURAXESS TOP II project under the 7th Framework Programme between 2012 and 2014. He subsequently rejoined FECYT in 2016 to work on several Horizon 2020 European projects related to international mobility and the professional development of research staff linked to EURAXESS, a role he combined with the coordination of the EURAXESS Spain network. With the launch of Horizon Europe in 2021, Xavier was appointed National Contact Point for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and since 2024 he has served as National Representative on the MSCA Programme Committee.



Invited speakers



Daniel Esteban-Ferrer

CEO, VRAIn

Daniel has a Telecommunications and Computer Science degree by the Technical University of Catalonia, a Master in Nanomaterials and Nanoelectronics by the University of California, Berkeley and a Master in Nanosciences and Nanotechnology by the University of Barcelona. Later he pursued a PhD in Biomedical Engineering by the Physics Department of the University of Barcelona together with the Bio-engineering Institute of Catalonia. After a short Postdoc he realised a huge pain in the visualisation and analysis of multidimensional biomedical imaging and got an Industrial Marie Curie (Cofund) postdoc in the University of Cambridge partly funded by the Catalan Government. From the fusion of AI and VR with Biomedical Imaging he founded VRAIn a digital Health Startup after transferring the exploitation rights from the University of Cambridge where he is now the CEO.



Marta Fernandez

CEO, RMIT Europe

Marta Fernandez (MSc (UGR) PhD UCL, CEng, FIET, FRSA) is responsible for RMIT's operations in Europe, based in Barcelona. Prior to joining RMIT, Marta's career spanned senior management roles in the UK, including Global Research Leader at international consultancy Arup. She has a strong interest in regeneration, urban wellbeing, particularly the impact of design and technology for healthy ageing and has been a member of European expert panels for nature-based solutions in cities, energy efficient buildings and healthy buildings.



Simone Fratta

Research Translation Manager, Cancer Research Horizons

Simone is a medicinal chemist by training and Research Translation Manager at Cancer Research Horizons, where he evaluates early-stage oncology innovations across therapeutics, diagnostics, AI, data and software. He combines scientific diligence, IP/FTO/regulatory assessment and strategic evaluation to shape translational pathways and partnering recommendations. Previously, Simone was Associate Principal Scientist and Technical Team Leader at Iksuda Therapeutics, a VC-backed ADC biotech, leading cross-functional chemistry and innovation workstreams and supporting portfolio strategy and IND-enabling activities. He also completed postdoctoral research at Newcastle Drug Discovery Unit under Professor Mike Waring. Simone holds a BSc/MSc in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from Sapienza University and LMU Munich, and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie PhD Fellowship in multidisciplinary oncology drug discovery.



Invited speakers



Nelson García-Polanco

Chair, MCAA Spain-Portugal

Nelson García-Polanco is a seasoned professional and specialized innovator driving technology transfer from initial concept to practical, market-ready solutions. As an expert in European R&D and Innovation Strategy, he currently focuses on the pre-award phase of Horizon Europe projects, adeptly managing consortium building and partner relations, including coordinating a high-impact Electric Vehicle initiative. His expertise encompasses comprehensive Innovation Strategy, covering intangible asset valuation, IP policy design and developing targeted training programs to convert raw ideas into valuable projects. An Aeronautical Engineer with advanced studies in Thermal Fluid Dynamics and Innovation Management (MIP Business School), Nelson possesses over 15 years of experience in applied research and successful technology transfer across industry and academia. This includes his tenure as an R&D leader at Whirlpool Corporation in Italy, where he spearheaded product development that resulted in 10 international patents. A former Marie Curie IAPP Fellow and frequent keynote speaker, he excels at bridging the critical gap between cutting-edge research and market application. He further substantiates his expertise with over 20 published scientific articles.



Cecilia Gonzales

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellow (AuSpire Program), Cetaqua

Cecilia Gonzales is an international sustainability leader and interdisciplinary researcher at the forefront of innovative governance in the energy–water nexus. Drawing on experience across consultancy, project management, and academia in Japan, England, and Sweden, she works at the intersection of research, policy, and practice to address pressing sustainability challenges. Currently undertaking postdoctoral research with Cetaqua (Spain) and RMIT University (Australia), she is developing innovative Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) models that strengthen governance and support resilient resource management. Through diplomatic leadership, strategic thinking, and cross-sector collaboration, Cecilia builds partnerships across academia, industry, and government to accelerate equitable and impactful sustainability transitions.



Murat Güneş

Chair, MCAA BSB Working Group

Leader in innovation and business development with over 15 years of experience driving technology transfer, commercialisation and strategic alliances in the health, advanced technologies, micro/nanosystems and EU-funded innovation ecosystems sectors. Dr Güneş has an extensive track record in converting laboratory technologies into market-ready products, founding two technology companies and managing multi-stakeholder R&D programs (Horizon Europe, MSCA, Interreg). He is an expert in intellectual property strategy, technology readiness levels (TRL/IRL), industry collaboration and the creation of high-impact technologies for healthcare, diagnostics, monitoring and scientific instrumentation. Dr Güneş earned his PhD in micro and nanotechnology at METU. He has founded the startups Soleil, Enerins and He3 LLC. As a two-time recipient of the Marie S. Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship, he developed micro- and nanotechnologies, mainly in the areas of physics, materials science, metrology and instrumentation. He volunteers as the Chair of the Bridging Business and Science Working Group at the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA). Dr Güneş is a supporter of gender equality and inclusion, science diplomacy and science policy. He builds bridges between research, industry and venture ecosystems to accelerate technology transfer and maximise real-world impact.



Invited speakers



Maria Gabriela Irrazabal

Research Fellow, RMIT Europe

Maria Gabriela Irrazabal, sociologist and Research Fellow at RMIT Europe, studies health across diverse socio-cultural contexts. Her research on bioethics, policy and cultural-societal dynamics led to co-developing the Global Atlas of Literacies for Health (GALH) as part of the Horizon Europe IDEAHL project, informing evidence-based strategies for just, inclusive and ethical healthcare and wellbeing.



Dorota Natalia Komar

Senior Scientist, Eurecat

PhD specialised in epigenetics and Senior Scientist leading the epigenetics research branch at the Technology Centre Eurecat in Catalonia. Her research focuses on how metabolic changes during aging, particularly in the brain and female reproductive system, affect chemical modifications of histones and DNA, ultimately influencing gene expression. Additionally, she investigates the relationship between health and the exposome and works on validating the efficacy of clinical interventions using DNA methylation-based effect biomarkers within multiple European Consortia. She holds a master's degree in biotechnology from the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, a PhD in Genetics and Developmental Biology from the Autonomous University of Madrid, and an MBA from IE Business School in Madrid. Passionate about science communication, she is actively engaged in making scientific knowledge accessible to a broader audience (IG: @darwininchaneldress).



Julio Marchamalo Amado

ERC and MSCA National Contact Point, Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)

Julio Marchamalo is a ERC and MSCA National Contact Point at the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT). He previously worked at CSIC, Madri+d Foundation, and AEI-FECYT in various positions related to the promotion and advising of European projects, and participated in the organisation of high-level conferences during Spain's last presidency of the Council of the EU. He holds a degree in Physics from the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM) and two master's degrees, one on Geophysics and Meteorology from UCM and the other on Science Research from the University of Alcalá (UAH), as well as the Expert Diploma on EU programmes by Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM).



Invited speakers



Nevena Marković

Vice-Chair of the MCAA Western Balkans Chapter

Nevena Marković is an interdisciplinary researcher with a background spanning Classics, Ecology, Historical Sciences, and Heritage Studies. Her research interests lie at the intersection of environmental anthropology, affective heritage, emotional cartography, cultural linguistics, and endangered languages. Her professional experience bridges academia, industry, and the non-profit sector, encompassing research, academic publishing, grant development, creative industries, AI training data and model development, and language-based services, including translation, interpretation, localisation, and language technologies. She has worked with international companies such as Alcatel-Lucent, NCR Corporation, Inditex Spain, MDPI, RWS Group, and Invisible Technologies, and currently focuses on multilingual language data for Large Language Models (LLMs), AI evaluation, prompt testing, data quality assurance (QA), and cultural evaluation and adaptation for language technologies and AI systems. A former MSCA-ITN Fellow in Heritage Studies at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), she has been an active member of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) since 2017 and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the MCAA Western Balkans Chapter.



Blanca Pina

Vice-Chair of of the MCAA BSB Working Group

I'm a PhD-trained biomedical researcher specialised in cardiovascular and chronic kidney diseases, with extensive experience in preclinical studies, knowledge of clinical trials and molecular and cellular biology. My scientific background has strengthened my analytical thinking, attention to detail, and ability to manage complex projects from concept to execution. I have presented my work at multiple international conferences, developing a clear, confident communication style that helps make complex scientific concepts accessible to diverse audiences. Beyond research, I'm passionate about science communication and event management. I've created scientific content, managed social media platforms, and continuously sought opportunities to coordinate events. This includes organising university galas for more than 500 attendees during my undergraduate studies and supporting international conferences as part of the STRATEGY-CKD research consortium. In these roles, I handled logistics, coordinated speaker sessions, and ensured meaningful participant engagement, bringing both creativity and structure to every project.



Franziska Püschel

Brand Lead Oncology, AstraZeneca

Franziska Püschel, PhD is Brand Lead in GI cancers at AstraZeneca in Switzerland. She previously worked as a Medical Affairs Manager at AstraZeneca and also held roles at Merck Switzerland in medical affairs and clinical development. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Life Science from the University of Konstanz and completed her PhD at the University of Barcelona as a Marie Curie Fellow within the ITN Marie Curie Network TRAINERS (Horizon 2020) project 'ER Stress in Health and Disease'. Before moving into industry, she built a strong academic foundation through research in immuno-oncology, cancer metabolism and cell death, including postdoctoral work at the University of Lausanne.



Invited speakers



Pietro Tonini

CEO, Tectum Garden

Pietro Tonini is the CEO of Tectum Garden, a company specialising in urban agriculture, local food systems, and environmental assessment through Life Cycle Analysis (LCA). He holds a PhD in Industrial Ecology and has a career focused on the sustainability of agri-food systems, building-integrated agriculture, and efficient resource management. He has collaborated with several international organisations, universities, and companies on innovation projects related to sustainable food production and the circular economy. Recently, he was awarded a Torres Quevedo grant to lead the development of an intelligent irrigation system based on artificial intelligence, aimed at optimising the use of water, energy, and nutrients, while improving the efficiency and sustainability of urban agriculture and landscaping projects.



Rosa Vilaplana

Head of Sustainable Food and Farming Systems Team, CT BETA UVic

Experienced researcher in postharvest biology and sustainable agriculture with 30 publications (h-index 14), participation in 32 research projects, and one patent. Her career began at IRTA, focusing on fruit quality and preservation technologies, including the use of 1-MCP during her PhD, and later evolved towards developing biofungicides as alternatives to chemical treatments. She has international experience in Ecuador combining research and teaching, as well as collaboration with industry leading to patented innovation. Notably, she was awarded a prestigious Tecniospring Industry fellowship (Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme), through which she led the BIOFUNTECH project (2021–2023) on biofungicides for stone fruits. She currently leads the Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems Unit at CT BETA, focusing on soil quality, agroforestry resilience, and food sovereignty.



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What's next...