The 2026 Fresco International Workshop on Synaptic Plasticity and Advances in Parkinson's Disease

Wednesday–Friday, November 4–6, 2026

Florence, Italy

www.frescoparkinsoninstitute.com

Fresco Parkinson Institute

NYU Langone Health

CENTRO NEUROLESI BONINO PULEJO IRCCS MESSINA

CUNY School of Medicine

With the unconditional support of

Parkinson's Foundation

WORKSHOP DIRECTORS

Angelo Quartarone, MD
M. Felice Ghilardi, MD
Monica Norcini, PharmD, PhD

MEETING DESCRIPTION

Join us in Florence for the eighth edition of the Fresco Symposium focused on synaptic plasticity and Parkinson and related diseases. With the increase of life expectancy, neurodegenerative diseases will see a significant upward trend with an increasing pressure on social and health care systems. During the five sessions, international experts will provide an overview of the scientific advances on different aspects of brain plasticity in health and neurodegenerative disorders from bench to bedside.

For more than fifteen years, the symposium has been a resourceful venue to meet scientists and clinicians from different backgrounds, to start fruitful discussion and collaborations with the goals to understand neural mechanisms, to treat symptoms and to improve the quality of life of patients.

The eighth edition of the symposium is coming back to Florence, the cradle of Renaissance. In this special frame, social events will merge science with the monuments and life of this unique Italian city.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Researchers, physicians, and other care providers in the field of neurology, internal medicine, rehabilitation medicine, neurosurgery psychiatry, geriatrics and other health care professionals working with patients with Parkinson's disease and related disorders as well as neuropsychiatric disorders.

ITALIAN ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

Course code 6633-478456 for 16 CME
Accreditation for: Physician, Nurse, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech-Language Therapist Psychologist and Neurophysiopathology Technician.

E.C.M.
Commissione Nazionale Formazione Continua

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EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

After the symposium, participants should be able to:

- Learn the mechanisms of Focused Ultrasound Stimulation (FUS) and Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for Parkinson disease
- Understand when FUS is the best approach to treat Parkinson disease
- Understand when DBS is the best approach to treat Parkinson disease
- Learn about the mechanisms of action of music in the brain
- Understand the benefits of music therapy as a complementary approach of Parkinson disease
- Utilize music therapy to impact the life of patients with Parkinson disease
- Learn about commonalities and differences of tau, amyloid, alpha-synuclein in determining specific neurodegenerative diseases
- Learn about the characteristics of the blood brain barrier and their importance in determining specific neurodegenerative diseases
- Select and use advanced pharmacological treatments in Parkinson disease
- Describe the connections between the brain, the liver and the gut
- Understand the central nervous system control of gastrointestinal functions in neurological diseases
- Acquire knowledge about the alteration of the gut function in Parkinson disease
- Learn about psychobiotics as possible therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders
- Learn about biomarkers of fatigue and inflammation in the brain
- Understand basic mechanism of fatigue in multiple sclerosis and neurodegenerative disorders
- Learn how to treat fatigue in multiple sclerosis and neurodegenerative disorders
- Acquire basic knowledge about brain pathological changes during situations of chronic social stress such as caregiving and bereavement

REGISTRATION

https://t1p.de/l56u2

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

1:00 pm **Registration**

1:30 pm **Opening remarks**

Introduction to the Workshop

SESSION I:
Rehabilitation with music

Moderators: Anna Castagna, Italy
Vincenzo Di Lazzaro, Italy
Antonio Suppa, Italy

2:00 pm **From sound to movement: Mapping the neural mechanisms of auditory-motor entrainment and synchronization**

Michael Thaut, Canada

2:30 pm **Disorders of consciousness: a rehabilitation role for music**

Sergio Bagnato, Italy

3:00 pm **Benefits of singing for Parkinson disease**

Frank A. Russo, Canada

3:30 pm **Panel discussion**

4:00 pm **Coffee break**

4:30 pm **Special tribute: Remembering Mark Hallett**

John Rothwell, UK

5:00 pm **The Mark Hallett Award Lecture**

5:30 pm **Adjourn**

6:00 pm **Cocktail and opening ceremony**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

8:30 am **CME Sign-In**

SESSION II:
FUS or DBS? Long- and short-term effects on Parkinson disease

Moderators: Ioannis U. Isaias, Italy
Antonio Pisani, Italy
Mario Zappia, Italy

9:00 am **Plasticity changes measured with neurophysiology**

Robert Chen, Canada
Salvatore Bertino, Italy

9:40 am **Structural and functional connectivity changes**

Nicola Pavese, UK
Alberto Cacciola, Italy

10:20 am **Coffee break**

10:50 am **Disease progression changes**

Elena Moro, France
Roberto Eleopra, Italy

11:30 am **Panel discussion**

12:00 pm **Highlights from the posters**

Fresco fellow lectures

12:30 pm **Lunch and Poster session**

SESSION III:
Inflammation, stress, and fatigue in neurological disorders

Moderators: Matilde Inglese, Italy
Sara Varanese, Italy
Sheela Vyas, France

2:30 pm **Imaging markers of fatigue and inflammation**
Hartwig Siebner, Denmark

3:00 pm **Fatigue in MS: From basic mechanisms to treatments**
Letizia Leocani, Italy

3:30 pm **Interoception and fatigue in neurodegenerative disorders: From basic mechanisms to treatments**
Mark Edwards, UK

4:00 pm **Coffee break**

4:30 pm **Biomarkers of social-related stress: from caregiving to bereavement**
Christopher P. Fagundes, USA

5:00 pm **Panel discussion**

5:30 pm **Highlights from the posters**

Fresco fellow lectures

6:00 pm **Adjourn**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:30 am **CME Sign-In**

SESSION IV:
Advanced therapies in neurodegenerative disorders

Moderators: Angelo Antonini, Italy
Laura Bonanni, Italy
Andrew S. Feigin, USA

9:00 am **Tau, Amyloid, Alpha-synuclein: Do they really play the most important role in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases? Commonalities and differences**
Paolo Calabresi, Italy

9:30 am **A key to disease differentiation: The interaction between neuroanatomical features and proteostatic mechanisms in neurodegeneration**
Peter Schmidt, USA

10:00 am **Altering blood-brain barrier permeability as a therapy or strategy for local drug delivery**
Nir Lipsman, Canada

10:30 am **Coffee break**

11:00 am **Advanced pharmacological treatments in Parkinson disease**
Alessandro Di Rocco, USA

11:30 am **Panel discussion**

12:00 pm **Highlights from the posters**

Fresco fellow lectures

12:40 pm **Lunch and Poster session**

SESSION V:
The microbiome and the brain

Moderators: Pascal Derkinderen, France
Giulietta Riboldi, USA
Alessandro Stefani, Italy

2:30 pm **The brain-liver-gut axis and back**
Maria Rescigno, Italy and Austria

3:00 pm **Central control of gastrointestinal functions in health and disease**
Carolina Pellegrini, Italy

3:30 pm **The gut in Parkinson disease**
Pascal Derkinderen, France

4:00 pm **Coffee break**

4:30 pm **Opportunities and challenges for psychobiotic development: Can we expand the range of therapeutic targets in neuropsychiatric disorders**
Gerald Clarke, Ireland

5:00 pm **Fresco fellow lectures**

5:10 pm **Panel discussion**

Summary and concluding remarks
Paolo Calabresi, Italy

6:00 pm **Adjourn**

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

We are accepting abstract submissions for poster presentation highlighting your research findings possible on the topic of the five sessions.
Please submit your abstract with a maximum of 250 words excluding title, authors, and presenters to:
INFO@frescoparkinsoninstitute.it

Poster Dimensions: 24" x 36" (60 x 90 cm).
Deadline for submission: August 31, 2026
The best abstract will be selected also for oral presentation discussion.

MEETING FEES

	Early Registration (Ending on July 31, 2026)	Regular
Young Investigators, Physicians, Researchers <40 years old	€300	€400
Investigators, Physicians, Researchers >40 years old	€400	€500
PT, SLT, OT, Students	€250	€350

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Fresco Parkinson Institute Italia
Phone: +39 055 598999
Email: info@frescoparkinsoninstitute.it
Registration:

https://t1p.de/l56u2

Scan Me

After 12 pm on October 28, 2026 only onsite registration is available, provided the meeting has not reached capacity. Onsite registrants will incur an additional €20 charge.
Registration is non-transferable.

REFUND POLICY

Submit your request for a refund of meeting fees no later than October 20. No refunds will be issued for cancellations or no-shows after that time. To request a refund, email info@frescoparkinsoninstitute.it.
A €100 administrative fee will be deducted.

MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY

If a meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, or any other catastrophic reason, will refund registration fees in full. Fresco Parkinson Institute will provide at least two weeks' advance notice if cancelling due to insufficient enrollment and as soon as possible in all other circumstances. Fresco Parkinson Institute is not responsible for any airfare, hotel, or other non-cancellable costs incurred by the registrant.

LOCATION

Istituto degli Innocenti
Piazza della Santissima Annunziata, 12
50122 Florence
Italy

HOW TO REACH (the Istituto degli Innocenti)

By Train
From Firenze Santa Maria Novella railway station (SMN):
Approx. 15–20 minutes on foot. Exit the station, walk towards Piazza del Duomo, then continue to Piazza Santissima Annunziata.
Alternatively, take a local bus heading toward the city centre.

By Plane
From Florence Airport (Amerigo Vespucci Airport):
Take the T2 tram line to the city centre (San Marco Università stop).
From there, walk approximately 3 minutes.
Taxis are also available outside the airport (approx. 20–30 minutes depending on traffic).

HOTEL AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Oroligio Network
Phone: +39 331 6299643
Mail: frescosymposium@orologionetwork.it
Florence

OrologioNetwork

Endorsed by the Regione Toscana, the Rete IRCCS delle Neuroscienze e della Neuroriabilitazione (RIN) and the Società Italiana di Neurofisiologia Clinica (SINC)