Fondazione per la Ricerca sulla Fibrosi Cistica - ETS
italian cystic fibrosis research foundation

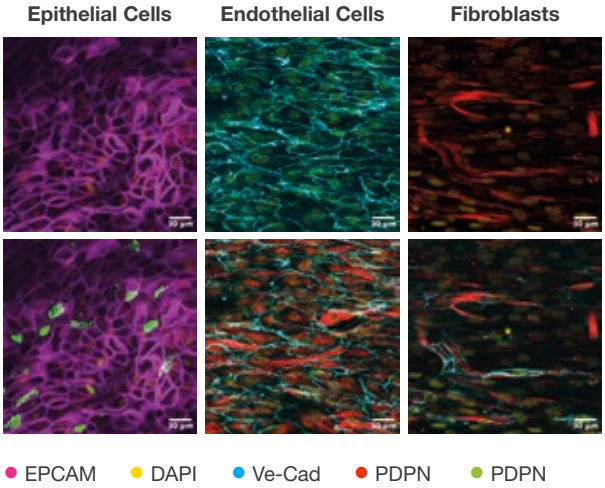
13-15
November 2025

CENTRO CONGRESSI CAMERA DI COMMERCIO
VERONA

23RD CONVENTION OF INVESTIGATORS IN CYSTIC FIBROSIS

PROGRAM

On the cover: Confocal microscopy characterization of the cystic fibrosis airway-on-a-chip 2.0



Upper images
The constituent cell types of the cystic fibrosis airway-on-a-chip 2.0 - epithelial cells, endothelial cells, and fibroblasts - were immunostained with cell-specific markers: anti-EpCAM (magenta, left) for epithelial cells, anti-VE-cadherin (cyan, center) for endothelial cells, and anti–podoplanin (red, right) for fibroblasts. Nuclei were counterstained with 4′,6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI, yellow).

Lower images
Merged images highlight the selective expression of EpCAM in epithelial cells (left) and VE-cadherin in endothelial cells (center). Anti-podoplanin staining primarily labels fibroblasts (right) but also detects endothelial and ciliated epithelial cells (pseudocolored in green). The central image, depicting the endothelium adjacent to fibroblasts, demonstrates successful integration of endothelial cells within the culture and suggests close endothelium–stroma interactions.

With the support of

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Cover image:
Courtesy of Roberto Plebani

Print:
November 2025, Grafichecom

Thursday, 13 November 2025

09:30 - 10:30	Registration and poster display
10:30 - 11:30	Welcome and greetings **Matteo Marzotto** (*President FFC Ricerca*) **Carlo Castellani** (*Scientific director FFC Ricerca*) **Callisto Marco Bravi** (*Director AOUI Verona*) **Francesco Blasi** (*President SIFC Società Italiana Fibrosi Cistica*) **Antonio Guarini** (*President LIFC Lega Italiana Fibrosi Cistica*) **Cecilia Cascone** (*Representative Consultation group FFC Ricerca*)
11:30 - 11:40	**Introduction to the 23rd FFC Ricerca Convention** **Carlo Castellani** (*Scientific director FFC Ricerca*)
11:40 - 13:00 SESSION 1	**THE MULTIFACETED KAFTRIO** ***Chair**: Carlo Castellani, Cristina Cigana*

1. **Maria Cristina Lucanto, Cesare Braggion, Cristina Cigana, Nicoletta Pedemonte** (Kaftrio in the real life)
   Efficacy and safety of Kaftrio in real life: an observational multicenter Italian clinical study (10')
2. **Lucilla Nobbio, Andrea Armirotti** (FFC#2/2024)
   Investigating the safety of elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor (ETI) exposure during pregnancy and early development (10')
3. **Santiago Ramón-García, Daniela Maria Cirillo** (FFC#9/2024)
   Understanding the contribution of Kaftrio to antimicrobial therapies against nontuberculous mycobacteria in cystic fibrosis (10')
4. **Sonia Graziano, Alexandra Quittner, Rita Pescini, Cristiana Risso, Angela Sepe, Vito Terlizzi** (MindKids-CF)
   Survey on Mental Health in Children with Cystic Fibrosis (15')
5. **Alberto Battezzati, Federico Alghisi, Stefano Costa** (FFC#14/2024)
   Long-term clinical outcomes of insulin secretory defects and effects of CFTR modulators (10')

12:35 - 13:00	Discussion
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch

14:30 - 16:30 **SESSION 2**	**MODULATORS AND GENETIC THERAPIES** ***Chair**: Marco Cipolli, Tiziano Bandiera*

6. **Giovanni Marzaro, Gergely Lukacs, Tamas Hegedus** (FFC#1/2024)
   Development of new potentiators active on (ultra)rare mutants of CFTR (10')
7. **Mauro Salvi** (FFC#3/2024)
   Promoting correct folding to enhance F508del-CFTR rescue induced by correctors (20')
8. **Carlos M. Farinha, Valeria Tomati** (FFC#2/2023)
   Exploring the cellular pathways to promote rescue of mutant CFTR protein in cystic fibrosis (10')
9. **Paola Barraja, Luis J. V. Galietta** (Molecules 3.0 for CF)
   Optimization and *in vivo* testing of two new classes of modulators and pharmacokinetic studies (15')
10. **Giulia Maule** (GMSG#1/2022)
    Development of CRISPR-Cas delivery system for genome editing applications in cystic fibrosis (20')
11. **Anna Cereseto, Sven Even Borgos, Luis J. V. Galietta, Sheref Mansy, Serena Zacchigna** (GenDel-CF)
    Tackling gene delivery in lungs for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (15')

16:00 - 16:30	Discussion
16:30 - 17:45	Coffee Break and Poster Session A
17:45 - 18:30 **SPECIAL LECTURE**	**CFTR in the Kidney: Physiology and Clinical Implications** **Peder Matzen Berg** (45') *Physiology, Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark*

Friday, 14 November 2025

09:00 - 10:30 **SESSION 3**	**HOT INFLAMMATION TOPICS** ***Chair**: Maria Cristina Lucanto, Giulio Cabrini*

12. **Ilaria Lampronti, Adriana Chilin** (FFC#11/2024)
    GY971 as anti-inflammatory agent 2.0 (10')
13. **Domenico Mattoscio** (FFC#12/2024)
    Targeting immune system to restrain cystic fibrosis airway inflammation (10')
14. **Antonio Recchiuti** (FFC#13/2024)
    Unraveling proresolving effects of CFTR modulators on lung inflammation and infection (10')
15. **Mario Romano, Mauro Perretti** (FFC#15/2023)
    Melanocortins to control cystic fibrosis airway inflammation (10')
16. **Daniela Guidone** (GMRF#1/2024)
    Airway surface as a battleground against bacteria (10')
17. **Onofrio Laselva, Valeria Capurro, Enza Montemitro** (FFC#4/2024)
    A personalized repurposing approach based on antinflammatory/antioxidant treatment to increase the efficacy of CFTR modulators (10')
18. **Giulio Cabrini, Marco Prosdocimi, Sjoerd Hak, Ilaria Lampronti, Adriana Chilin, Alessandra Bragonzi, Nicoletta Pedemonte** (De-risking GY)
    Assessing the safety and clinical potential of GY971, an anti-inflammatory compound for cystic fibrosis

10:10 - 10:30	Discussion
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:10 **SESSION 4**	**THE NTM CHALLENGE** ***Chair**: Sonia Volpi, Alessandra Bragonzi*

19. **Maria Rosalia Pasca, Fabio Saliu** (FFC#9/2023 + FFC#11/2025)
    Evaluation of the efficacy of the VOMG new antibiotic against *Mycobacterium abscessus* (20')
20. **Edoardo Scarpa, Daniela Maria Cirillo** (FFC#12/2023)
    - speaker Anna Griego
    Fostering pathogen host-mediated clearance to neutralize *Mycobacterium abscessus* infection (20')

21. **Stefano Sabatini, Laura Rindi** (FFC#10/2024)
Phenotypic medicinal chemistry approaches to identify new anti-*Mycobacterium abscessus* agents (10')

11:50 - 12:10 Discussion

12:10 - 13:00 **SESSION 5**

FLASH PRESENTATION: FFC RICERCA FACILITIES AND NEW PROJECTS

***Chair**: Ermanno Rizzi*

22. **Alessandra Bragonzi** (CFaCore)
FFC Ricerca Research facilities: The cystic fibrosis animal core facility (3')
23. **Roberto Buzzetti, Natalia Cirilli** (CFDB)
FFC Ricerca Research facilities: The cystic fibrosis database
24. **Valeria Capurro** (SCP)
FFC Ricerca Research facilities: The primary cell cultures service (3')
25. **Margarida Amaral, Ines Pankonien, Emanuela Pesce, Emanuel Gonçalves** (FFC#1/2025) - *speaker Ines Pankonien*
Damage and repair mechanisms in epithelial tissues in cystic fibrosis (3')
26. **Debora Baroni** (FFC#2/2025)
An antisense oligonucleotide-based strategy for the rescue of CFTR stop and splicing mutations (3')
27. **Marianne Carlon, Anna Cereseto** (FFC#3/2025)
Optimizing gene therapy and delivery systems for CF untreatable mutations (3')
28. **Luis J. V. Galietta** (FFC#4/2025)
Pharmacological approaches to target nonsense mutations in cystic fibrosis (3')
29. **Emilio Hirsch** (FFC#5/2025)
Characterization of protein kinase D1 as a novel regulator of CFTR trafficking and stability (3')
30. **Maria Luisa Mangoni, Loretta Ferrera, Mattia Mori** (FFC#6/2025)
Exploring the dual function of Esc peptides and their derivatives as CFTR potentiators and antimicrobial agents (3')
31. **Marta Mellini** (GMSG#1/2025)
Unconventional approaches to combat cystic fibrosis bacteria (3')
32. **Andrea Battistoni, Luigi Scipione** (FFC#7/2025)
Exploiting *P. aeruginosa*'s zinc dependency to potentiate antibiotic activity (3')

33. **Francesco Imperi, Giorgio Giardina, Antonio Coluccia** (FFC#10/2025)
Targeting *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* virulence factors to counteract infections in cystic fibrosis (3')
34. **Cristina Cigana, Valeria Daccò, Barbara Kahl** (FFC#13/2025)
Tracking lung infections via gut microbiota (3')
35. **Maurizio Fraziano, Daniela Maria Cirillo** (FFC#8/2025)
Development of a combined therapy with bioactive liposomes encapsulating antibiotics to treat *M. abscessus* infection (3')
36. **Federico Giannoni, Riccardo Manganelli** (FFC#9/2025)
Identification of novel drug targets in persistent *Mycobacterium abscessus* in cystic fibrosis (3')
37. **Nicola Ivan Lorè** (FFC#12/2025)
Studying the immune system's response to nontuberculous mycobacterial infections (3')

13:00 - 13:15	Group photo at auditorium
13:15 - 15:20	Lunch and Poster Session B
15:20 - 16:30 **SESSION 6**	**PHAGES AND FUNGI** ***Chair**: Elio Castagnola, Emilio Clementi*

38. **Mariagrazia Di Luca, Laura Rindi, Andrea Moscatelli** (FFC#6/2024)
Development of phage therapy for treating *Mycobacterium abscessus* lung infections in people with cystic fibrosis (10')
39. **Federica Briani** (FFC#16/2023)
Facing resistance to therapeutic phages observed in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates from people with cystic fibrosis (10')
40. **Marco Cafora** (GMRF#1/2023)
Ex vivo pig lung as a new model to study the efficacy of phage therapy against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in cystic fibrosis (10')
41. **Teresa Zelante** (FFC#15/2022)
Study on anti-fungal immunoglobulins, as a potential diagnostic biomarker and therapeutic values for Allergic Bronchopulmonary Aspergillosis in children with cystic fibrosis (20')

16:10 - 16:30 Discussion

16:30 - 17:15 **SPECIAL LECTURE**	**CFTR Protein Structure and Function: Known Knowns, Known Unknowns and Unknown Unknowns** **David N. Sheppard** (45') *Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, UK*
20:00	SOCIAL DINNER at Palazzo Verità Poeta - Vicolo San Silvestro 6, Verona

Saturday, 15 November 2025

09:00 - 11:00 SESSION 7 — **TACKLING PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA**
***Chair**: Giovanni Taccetti, Alessandra Bragonzi*

42. **Giovanni Bertoni, Silvia Ferrara** (FFC#5/2024)
Targeting bacterial small RNA to develop non-traditional therapeutic options against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (10')
43. **Sandra Gemma, Arianna Pompilio** (FFC#7/2024)
Targeting quorum sensing to fight *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections (10')
44. **Annalisa Guaragna , Eliana De Gregorio** (FFC#8/2024)
A combined therapy against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa -Staphylococcus aureus* co-infections in cystic fibrosis (10')
45. **Martina Rossitto, Marco Artini** (FFC#15/2024)
Analysis of the evolution of virulence factors and antimicrobial resistance of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in people with cystic fibrosis (10')
46. **Silvia Buroni, Antonio Coluccia** (FFC#6/2023)
Using a Virtual Screening approach to find new drugs against Pseudomonas aeruginosa and *Staphylococcus aureus* (10')
47. **Barbara Citterio, Massimiliano Lucidi** (FFC#7/2023)
Evaluation of cefiderocol activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in cystic fibrosis lung infections (20')
48. **Eugenio Notomista, Ivana d'Angelo** (FFC#8/2023)
Inhalable nanoparticles delivering peptidomimetic/antibiotic combinations for local treatment of CF lung infections (20')
49. **Marco Sette, Mattia Falconi, Marco Rinaldo Oggioni** (FFC#13/2023)
Building simple molecules containing regions of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* to stimulate the immune system against this pathogen (10')

10:40 - 11:00 Discussion

11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:40 **SESSION 8**	**DIFFERENT CHALLENGES, DIFFERENT APPROACHES** ***Chair**: Cesare Braggion, Nicoletta Pedemonte*

50. **Renata Bocciardi** (FFC#3/2023)
    Understanding the mechanisms behind the variable efficacy of CFTR modulators on the N1303K mutation on human primary nasal epithelial cells (10')
51. **Roberto Plebani** (GMSG#1/2023)
    Developing a new respiratory 3D model as an innovative strategy to study the inflammation pathology in cystic fibrosis (10')
52. **Michele Genovese** (GMSG#1/2024)
    Alternative therapeutic target to restore the mucociliary clearance in CF (10')
53. **Moira Paroni, Clelia Peano** (FFC#14/2023)
    Identification of molecular mechanisms which underpin the activation of pathogenic pulmonary Th1/17 cells in cystic fibrosis (10')
54. **Alessandra Bragonzi, Federica Ungaro, Valeria Daccò** (FFC#5/2023)
    Beyond the lung: the gut's role in the pathology of cystic fibrosis (10')

12:20 - 12:40	Discussion
12:40 - 12:55	Closing remarks
12:55 - 13:15	Poster detachment

Notes

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Oggi la vita di Aiden, bambino con FC,
è scandita da pesanti terapie quotidiane:
solo la ricerca può trovare una cura risolutiva.

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