



Fondazione Adriano Buzzati-Traverso

Pavia, 12 dicembre 2019, ore 10,30
Aula Magna - Università di Pavia - Corso Strada Nuova 75
In occasione della Opening Ceremony of the PhD Academic Year

17th Adriano Buzzati-Traverso Lecture

PROF. IAIN W. MATTAJ

Director

Fondazione Human Technopole, Milano

Advancing the molecular life sciences through internationality, interdisciplinarity and collaboration

Research is by its own nature a highly international enterprise, which thrives on cross-border collaboration. Moreover, the focus of research has gradually shifted from more simple questions in basic research, confined within specific disciplines, to resolving bigger challenges such as public health, climate change, loss of species diversity, food and water crises, and so on. Solving these complex problems requires diverse teams of people contributing new perspectives and complementary expertise, and the integration of ideas and methods from many different, traditionally separate scientific disciplines. In fact, most of today's most ambitious and high-impact research is collaborative, with scientists from different backgrounds and countries pooling their specialised knowledge to tackle global challenges.

The concepts above obviously apply to molecular life science research, where – more and more – physicists, chemists, geneticists, computer scientists, mathematicians and experts from many other fields work together on challenging biomedical problems. The many ongoing international genomics initiatives, and the huge potential that such approaches hold for 'personalised medicine' and human health are just one example of the relevance and impact of international collaborative projects.

In my talk I will highlight the importance of internationality and interdisciplinary collaboration and illustrate how both the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, where I worked till last year, and Human Technopole, a new life science research institute in Milan, promote or aim to promote these in Italy and beyond.

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