



EBRI

European Brain Research Institute
Rita Levi-Montalcini

2026

**Rita Levi-Montalcini Lecture by
Nobel Laureate Frances H. Arnold**

& Workshop

**Biomolecular Innovation
by Evolution and Design**

ROME

12 June 2026

Sala Marconi
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7

EBRI SECRETARIAT

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PROGRAMME

10:00 **Welcome addresses**

Andrea Lenzi *President, National Research Council (CNR)*

Antonino Cattaneo *President, European Brain Research Institute (EBRI) 'Rita Levi-Montalcini'*

10:10 **RITA LEVI-MONTALCINI LECTURE**

Frances H. Arnold *California Institute of Technology*

**Innovation by Evolution:
Bringing New Chemistry to Life**

11:00 **Francesco Raimondi** *Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa*

**Learning and harnessing the structure
and function of signaling networks through AI**

11:30 **Velia Siciliano** *Italian Institute of Technology - IIT, Naples*

**Synthetic Biology in biomedicine:
a journey towards improved cell therapies**

12:00 **Francesco Ricci** *University of Rome Tor Vergata*

**Programmable and responsive DNA-based
synthetic cells and genes**

12:30 **Benedetta Mennucci** *University of Pisa*

**Computational Chemistry for Biomolecular Design:
connecting molecular mechanisms and function**

13:00 **Lunch at Sala Laguna**

14:00 **Simone Giaveri** *Ri.MED Foundation, Palermo;
Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia - IBEC,
Barcelona*

**Towards "Autonomous" Minimal Cells
as Next-Gen Therapeutics**

14:30 **Michele Vendruscolo** *University of Cambridge*

**Expediting drug discovery for undruggable
targets using AI**