

2025  
23<sup>rd</sup>  
April

**BIOMETEC**  
University of Catania  
Aula Carnazza  
Torre biologica  
"Ferdinando Latteri"  
Via Santa Sofia, 97  
95123 - Catania

# Unlocking the Power of Liquid Biopsy in Diagnostics: Advances in Nucleic Acid Testing for Cancer

**Morning – Chairperson(s):** Marco Ragusa (UNICT) / Salvatore Pernagallo (DESTINA)

📍 9:15 - 9:30

*Welcome and Introduction*

**Marco Ragusa**

Vice Director, BIOMETEC, Catania, Italy

📍 9:30 - 9:50

*The diaRNAgnosis Project*

**Salvatore Pernagallo**

DESTINA Genomica SL, Granada, Spain

📍 9:50 - 10:10

*MSCA Staff Exchanges*

**Daskalopoulos Evangelos**

European Research Executive Agency

📍 10:10 - 10:30

*Extracellular RNAs from Whole Urine to Distinguish Prostate Cancer*

**Michele Stella**

University of Catania, Italy

📍 10:30 - 10:50

*MicroRNAs in seminal plasma and risk of developing testicular cancer*

**Carmen Ferrara**

University of Catania, Italy

☕ 10:50 - 11:10 Coffee Break

📍 11:10 - 12:00 - 🗝️ **Keynote Lecture**

*Liquid biopsy and hereditary tumors. Are we ready?*

**Marco Pierotti**

COGENTECH, Milan, Italy

📍 12:00 - 12:20

*Plasma miRNA as Companion Diagnostic for Abiraterone Acetate Treatment in mCRPC*

**Simone Detassis**

University of Trento, Italy

📍 12:20 - 12:50

*MicroRNA biomarker detection by bridging lifetime filtering imaging and dynamic chemical labelling*

**Angel Orte**

University of Granada, Spain

📍 12:50 - 13:10

*Interpretation of assay results using Machine Learning methods*

**Lisa-Maria Kuso**

DATAMEDRIX GmbH, Vienna, Austria

📍 13:10 - 13:30

*Looking inside ctDNA: a novel approach to early diagnosis*

**Domenico Scionti**

COGENTECH, Catania, Italy

🕒 13:30 - 15:00 Lunch Break

📍 15:00 - 15:30

*Super-Resolution Microscopy for Single Extracellular Vesicle Protein Profiling: A Novel Liquid Biopsy Approach for Early Cancer Detection*

**Stefano Forte**

Istituto Oncologico del Mediterraneo, Viagrande, Italy

📍 15:30 - 16:00

*Nanotechnology-based diagnostic methods*

**RM Sanchez Martin**

University of Granada, Spain

📍 16:00 - 16:30

*Nucleic acid testing: the latest trend*

**JJ Diaz Mochon**

University of Granada, Spain

☕ 16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break

📍 17:00 - 17:30

*Tail tales: RNA Degradation Factors in Extracellular Vesicles for Liquid Biopsy*

**Nikolaos Balatsos**

University of Thessaly, Greece

📍 17:30 - 18:00

*A glimpse of the rapid evolution of AI for histopathology*

**Piero Conca**

COGENTECH, Catania, Italy



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**Organising committee:** Salvatore Pernagallo (DESTINA Genomica S.L.), Marco Ragusa and Cinzia Di Pietro (University of Catania)



<https://www.diagnosis.com/>



**Who should attend?** Scientists, clinicians, PhD students, industry professionals, and anyone interested in liquid biopsy and diagnostics. Participation is free, and no registration is required.