



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TRIESTE

Seminar

Thursday 27th November 2025

Aula magna || IRCCS «Burlo Garofolo»

Genetics and Biodiversity of the Inner Ear: insights into function and disease

Programme:

14:30 Welcome and Opening remarks

Prof. Giorgia Girotto (IRCCS «Burlo Garofolo» Children's and Maternal Health Institute, University of Trieste, Italy)

14:45 - 15:45 Biodiversity of the Inner Ear: Evolution, Anatomy, and Development

Prof. Heiko Locher (Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands)

He is an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology and a Principal Investigator in the OtoBiology group at Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC). His research focuses on the evolution, anatomy, and diversity of the human inner ear, in particular he integrates advanced methods like single-cell transcriptomics with the pioneering use of stem cell-derived organoids to model early otic development *in vitro*.

15:45 - 16:45 The Role of Genetics Today in the Diagnosis and Management of Paragangliomas

Prof. Elisabetta Zanoletti (University of Padua, Italy)

She is Full Professor and Head of the Lateral Skull Base Surgery Unit at the University of Padua. A leading authority in otoneurosurgery, she specializes in the complex surgical management of skull base tumours such as paragangliomas, vestibular schwannomas, and meningiomas. Her impactful research focuses on integrating genetics and molecular data to revolutionize the diagnostic pathways and personalized surgical treatment of these critical malignancies.

Moderators:

Annalisa Gatto, MD (ENT Clinic, ASUGI, Trieste, Italy)

Giulia Pianigiani, PhD (IRCCS «Burlo Garofolo» Children's and Maternal Health Institute, University of Trieste, Italy)

17:00 Closing remarks

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