

# The Future of Humanity Through the Lens of Medical Science

## Rewriting the Contract

Rome, 2017 April 4-5



Fori Imperiali, Rome

## PROGRAMME

### Organized by

The Lancet  
Istituto Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri  
Università degli Studi di Milano  
Istituto Superiore di Sanità  
Pontificio Consiglio della Cultura  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

### Venue

Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico Universitas Aromatariorum Urbis - Rome

Promoted by



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# The Future of Humanity Through the Lens of Medical Science

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Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico

Italy was the birthplace of the modern university. In Bologna in 1088, an extraordinary human achievement was realised—the creation of an association of scholars dedicated to study, research, and the passing on of knowledge across generations. For almost a thousand years, the notion of scholarship in the service of society has animated the hopes of human civilisation. Scholarly inquiry was the intellectual seed that bore the fruit of enlightenment, a bright source of illumination that has gradually shone its light over all nations and peoples of the world. The aspirations of our species are embedded in the values of learning. The hopes we share for our future are founded on the accumulation of an ever more reliable understanding of our predicament. And the instruments for protecting and strengthening those insights are the truths that we depend upon for our continued survival and flourishing. But the 21<sup>st</sup> century is posing challenges that are testing the very fabric of our future. The global forces shaping conditions affecting our existence are strong and not necessarily favourable. Our global community is experiencing unprecedented change—political, economic, social, and technological. A millennium-long consensus about the perfection of humankind seems to be fracturing. The spirit of cooperation among peoples is weakening as nations seek to retreat from what some critics see as the threat of globalisation. Violence, displacement, and fear are replacing notions of peace, shelter, and confidence. Trust is ebbing. Anxiety is breeding intolerance. Insecurity is fostering hate. The history of humanity is at a turning point. Despite these uncertainties, nations have found the strength to write an optimistic vision for our fragile planetary life. The Sustainable Development Goals are a realistic utopia for what we might achieve together if we could only find the inner strength to overcome our pervasive apprehension. But what will it take to shed our collective unease and disquiet? Two great forces—science and religion—are the axes between which humanity will discover its destiny. Today, it is unclear what that destiny will be. Some observers see these two traditions as in opposition. A belief in one challenges the validity of the other. Science celebrates its secularism, while religion offers meanings that science can never match. We reject this false dichotomy. We believe that the future of humanity will be determined in our present century. We think that the only way to forge a course towards a sustainable existence is to encourage a dialogue between these two communities based on respect and a common objective—a correct diagnosis of our circumstances and a renewed bond of faith in our ability to discover solutions through collaboration. This conference is about the future of humanity. Such a subject seems almost too big (and maybe hubristic) to contemplate. Its enormity and importance seems beyond the scope of one small gathering. Beyond the scope, even, of human imagination. But we believe that unless we begin that conversation, the realistic utopia that we have dared to conceive cannot be won. We believe that by bringing together scholars from the communities of science and religion we can at least make a start to identify opportunities and prospects for what some might call “salvation” and others would call “development.” Science derives its power from unbiased experimentation, religion from committed faith. Between these two poles of human meaning lies a delicate and vulnerable truth—namely, that those species which have survived life-threatening dangers have done so because they dared to sacrifice comfortable certainties in exchange for a tentative new future. It is that new future which this conference seeks to draft.

## Tuesday - April 4, 2017

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**9:00- 9:30** **Opening welcome and keynote lecture on whether science and religion can have true dialogue**

*Richard Horton UK, Giuseppe Remuzzi and Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi*

**9:30-11:00** **TOPIC 1**

**Climate change, pollution and the environment: health impact implications**

Moderator: *Philip J. Landrigan, USA*

Introduction: *Eric Chivian, USA*

Invited Discussants: > *Andrew Haines, UK*  
> *Timothy Bouley, USA*  
> *Vaticano*

Open debate: All delegates

**11:00-11:30** ***Coffee Break***

## Tuesday - April 4, 2017

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**11:30-13:00** TOPIC 2

### **Migration, gender discrimination and disabilities**

Moderator: *Roger Glass*, USA

Introduction: *Rosemarie Garlan-Thomson*, UK

Invited Discussants: > *Telmo Pievani*

> *Mauro Bonazzi*

> *David Toole*, USA

> *Alberto Piazza*

> *Francis L. Delmonico*, USA

Open debate: All delegates

**13:00-14:00** **Lunch**

## Tuesday - April 4, 2017

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**14:00-15:30** TOPIC 3

**Will novel medicine and artificial intelligence help humanity and how? (and the unsustainable price of novel medicinal products)**

Moderator: *Silvio Garattini*

Introduction: *Mario Rasetti*

Invited Discussants: > *Rocco Bellantone*  
> *Vincenzo Barnaba*  
> *Jacques Demotés-Mainard, France*  
> *Salim Yusuf, Canada*  
> *Gianvito Martino*

Open debate: All delegates

**15:30-16:00** *Tea Break*

## Tuesday - April 4, 2017

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**16:00-17:30** TOPIC 4

**Basic biological mechanisms can be changed in positive ways by moral/religious precepts or in negative ways by aberrant ideologies**

Moderator: *Lamberto Maffei*

Introduction: *Giacomo Rizzolatti*

Invited Discussants: > *Jane Dacre, UK*  
> *Maurizio Brunori*  
> *Tomasz Trafny*

Open debate: All delegates

**17:30-18:30** ***Summary reflection***

Moderators: *Alison Abbott, Germany* and  
*Richard Horton, UK*

## Wednesday - April 5, 2017

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**9:00-12:00** Audience with Pope Francis

**14:00-15:00** TOPIC 5

### **What will synthetic biology and genome editing really mean for generations to come?**

Moderator: *Guido Forni*

Introduction: *Mario Capecchi, USA*

Invited Discussants: > *Philippe Tergheggen, NL*  
> *Carlo Casonato*  
> *Bruno Dallapiccola*  
> *Elena Cattaneo*

Open debate: All delegates

**15:00-15:30** *Tea Break*



## **Wednesday - April 5, 2017**

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**15:30-17:00 Panel discussion on the issues of the meeting in the context of science and religion**

Moderators: *Kathryn Pritchard, UK, Walter Ricciardi*

Open debate: All delegates

**17:00-18:00 Closing address**

Moderators: *Mario Capecchi, USA, Richard Horton, UK*  
and Cardinal *Gianfranco Ravasi*

# General Information

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## Venue

Congress will be held at **Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico  
Universitas Aromatariorum Urbis** - Via in Miranda, 10 - Rome

Congress has no fees, but it still needed to send the form by email or by fax

## Official language

English

## THANKS ALSO TO:



fondazione  
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DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



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## ENDORSEMENT:

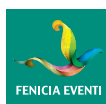


*Ministero della Salute*



REALIZZAZIONE GENERALE: FENICIA EVENTI  
GRAFICA E STAMPA: ROMANO Bottini - Speed Art

### **Secretariat Organizing**



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