

## General Information Venue

Italian National Institute of Health,  
Aula Pocchiarri - Viale Regina Elena, 299, Rome, Italy

## Steering Committee

### **Maria Luisa Scattoni**

Dept. Cell Biology and Neuroscience  
Italian National Institute of Health  
Viale Regina Elena, 299 - CAP 00161 Rome, Italy  
Tel.: 0649903104  
e-mail: marialuisa.scattoni@iss.it

### **Teresa Di Fiandra**

General Directorate Prevention  
Ministry of Health, Italy  
Via G. Ribotta, 5 - CAP 00144 Rome, Italy  
Tel.: 0659943371  
e-mail: t.difiandra@sanita.it

## Advisory Committee

**Gemma Calamandrei, Flavia Chiarotti, Laura Ricceri,  
Stefania Salmaso, Angelo Picardi**  
Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

**Italian Health Research Network for Europe**  
(Rete dei Destinatari Istituzionali ed IRCCS per l'Europa)  
[www.healthresearch.it](http://www.healthresearch.it)

## Technical Organization

**Secretariat of the President, Paola Sergiampietri,  
Debora Guerrera, Annamaria Morace, Paola Tacchi Venturi,  
Stefania Bocci**  
Italian National Institute of Health  
Viale Regina Elena, 299 - CAP 00161 Rome, Italy

### **iDea congress S.r.l.**

Piazza Giovanni Randaccio, 1 - 00195 Rome, Italy  
Phone: +39-06 36381573  
Fax: +39-06 36307682

### **Studio ACTA**

Via Tiburtina 123, 00185 Rome, Italy  
Phone: +39 06 4466148  
[info@studioacta.com](mailto:info@studioacta.com)  
[www.studioacta.com](http://www.studioacta.com)

## Chairpersons

### **Maria Luisa Scattoni**

Dept. Cell Biology and Neuroscience  
Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

### **Franco Nardocci**

Past President SINPIA

### **Teresa Di Fiandra**

General Directorate Prevention  
Ministry of Health, Italy



# Strategic agenda for Autism Spectrum Disorders: a public health and policy perspective

December 17, 2014



organized by  
Italian National Institute of Health  
and  
Italian Ministry of Health

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are characterized by impairment in social interactions and communication capacities as well as by repetitive behaviours and narrow interests. In addition to these core features, anxiety, depression, sleeping and eating disturbances, aggression or self-injury are common in ASDs. Intellectual disability affects the majority of ASD children and seizures are present in an estimated 30% of the autistic population. The estimated median prevalence rate in the general population is 62/10.000, suggesting that ASDs represent a serious public health problem. Furthermore, autism is a life-long condition with a very high burden and economic impact on families and Health System.

Early detection of ASDs, identification of causes and treatments and the sharing of best practices and knowledge are recognized by WHO as the “main challenges to address regarding ASD management in order to increase the capacity of health and social care systems to provide services for individuals and families with ASDs”. To address these challenges, a priority issue is the establishment of national surveillance programmes in each EU member state, to estimate prevalence and implement early detection and intervention involving health and social services, schools, and families.

## PROGRAMME

**8.30** Registration

**9.00** Welcome address

**Walter Ricciardi**

Commissioner of the Italian National Institute of Health

**Beatrice Lorenzin**

Italian Minister of Health

**Stefania Giannini**

Italian Minister of Education, Universities and Research

**H.E. Msgr. Zygmunt Zimowski**

President of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers

**Michael Hübel**

DG Health and Consumers, Head of Unit “Programme Management and Diseases”

## SESSION I: Main Lectures

Chair: **Maria Luisa Scattoni**

**9.45** Autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disorders: from raising awareness to building capacity

**Shekhar Saxena**

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

**10.15** Autism spectrum disorders

**Jan K. Buitelaar**

Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center  
Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behavior  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

**11.00** Coffee break

**11.30** A Parent's Point of View

**Giovanni Marino**

FANTASIA

**12.00** EU-AIMS: a boost to autism research

**Will Spooren**

CNS Research and Early Clinical Development,  
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., Basel, Switzerland

**12.45** Lunch

## SESSION II: Main Lectures

Chair: **Franco Nardocci**

**13.45** National guidelines for treatment and management of ASD children and adolescents (NICE, SIGN and ISS)

**Nicola Vanacore**

Clinical Epidemiology and Guidelines Unit  
National Centre for Epidemiology, Surveillance, and Health Promotion, Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

**14.15** ISS national census survey on ASD health services

**Aldina Venerosi**

Neurotoxicology and Neuroendocrinology Section  
Department of Cell biology and Neuroscience  
Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

**14.45** Coffee break

**15.15** Round Table: national and regional experiences

Chair: **Teresa Di Fiandra**

Introductory speakers:

Topic: Prevalence studies

**Manuel Posada De La Paz**

Rare Diseases Research Institute,  
Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

Topic: National birth cohorts/registries

**Erik Thorlund Parner**

Department of Public Health,  
University of Aarhus, Denmark

Topic: Delay in diagnosis

**Ricardo Canal Bedia**

University of Salamanca  
Department of Personality, Assessment  
Psychological Treatment  
Salamanca, Spain

Discussant:

**Italian Regional Representatives**

**17.15** Concluding remarks

**Maria Luisa Scattoni**

Principal Investigator  
Italian Network for Early Detection of  
Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

**Angelo Lino Del Favero**

General Director  
Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy