



66th National Congress of the Italian Astronomical Society: A bridge between past and future

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Abstract. The 66th National Congress of the Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt) was held at Palazzo Affari in Florence from the 3rd to the 6th of June. The event was a valuable opportunity for the Italian astronomical community to connect, share recent research and discuss the past, present and future of astrophysics in Italy.

Keywords: astronomy, astrophysics, space missions, technology, telescopes.

This year, the 66th National Congress of the Italian Astronomical Society (SAIt) was held at Palazzo Affari, in the heart of the city of Florence, from the 3rd to the 6th of June. The Congress, which represents the annual meeting of the Italian astronomical community, serves as a fundamental forum for discussing the main advancements in national astronomical and astrophysical research and future perspectives in the field.

Entitled “From the Solar System to the Deep Universe: From Project to Project, a Relay to the Future”, the event celebrated the crucial scientific contributions of missions with major involvement from the Italian astronomical community that have recently been completed or are nearing the end of their observational phase, such as INTEGRAL and the GAIA. At the same time, the congress highlighted the progress anticipated in all fields of astrophysics, both scientifically and technologically, thanks to a new generation of space missions and ground-based projects, including Euclid, Ariel, Plato, Juice, Bepi Colombo, LSST, ELT, SKA, CTA and ET.

Over 140 astronomers from the National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF) and several Italian universities gathered for the event. Its central goal was to foster discussion and collaboration among scientists from different fields and generations. The congress was also attended by INAF governance, including President Prof. Roberto Ragazzoni and Governing Board members. A session was also dedicated to the teaching of astronomy, a non-curricular subject in the Italian educational system, characterized by its high level of interdisciplinary content and its strong cultural and educational value. Topics concerning public engagement and the enhancement of historical astronomical heritage were also thoroughly explored.

The annual Members' Assembly and the traditional SAIt awards ceremony were held during the three days in Florence. The XX Edition of the Pietro Tacchini Award was granted to Dr. Massimiliano Parente for his Ph.D. thesis, "*Dust in hydrodynamical and semi-analytic galaxy evolution simulation*". He was recognized for the originality of his work and his personal contribution to the development of dust models in simulations. A special mention went to Dr. Federico Esposito for his thesis, "*Impact of active galactic nuclei on the molecular gas: a radiative and kinematic perspective*", in recognition of his significant contribution to AGN line emission models and the richness of his multiband analysis. The IX Edition of the Giuseppe Lorenzoni Award was won by Dr. Andrea Botteon for his work, "*Magnetic fields and relativistic electrons fill entire galaxy cluster*" published in Science Advances in 2022 (<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abq7623>). This work was cited for its significant contribution to the study of the non-thermal component associated with the intracluster medium in galaxy clusters. An honorable mention also went to Dr. Michele Fiori for his work "*Modelling the gamma-ray pulsar wind nebulae population in our galaxy*" published in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society in March 2022 (<https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article/511/1/1439/6501213>). The SAIt recognized his detailed and realistic modeling as a solid foundation for interpreting current and future data in the high-energy and very-high-energy bands. There was no winner for the VII Edition of the Guido Horn D'Arturo Award in 2025.

The 66th National Congress of the SAIt was a vibrant event which, while being rich in contributions, awards and social events, still succeeded in keeping the attention focused firmly on the future of Italian astronomical research. To mark the Congress, the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory hosted a public event with astrophysicist Patrizia Caraveo, President of the Italian Astronomical Society, entitled "*L'assalto dello spazio*".

You can relive the entire event by consulting Volume 3/2025 of the Video Memorie della SAIt: <https://www.memsait.it/videomemorie/SAIT%20LXVI%20Congresso-3-2025.php>.



Figure 1. Ceremonial Photo of the 66th National Congress of the Italian Astronomical Society, in Florence (3-6 June 2025).