

PRESS RELEASE

The sense of smell changes in Space. Scientific experts from all over the world discuss the matter in Trieste

Studying smell and taste perception in orbit to improve the astronaut's diet. This will be one of the many topics for discussion from 11 to 14 September at the annual ECRO (European Chemoreception Research Organization) meeting. Session will cover the latest scientific discoveries and their applications in medicine, industry and aerospace. One of the most eagerly awaited guests is Nobel Prize winner Linda Buck



Trieste, 6 September 2019

How do astronauts perceive smells during a mission? What are the novelties in the treatment of anosmia (loss of smell)? How different is our way of “smelling” things from that of a midge? Smell and taste will be the focus of **the annual European Chemoreception Research Organization (ECRO) meeting to be held at the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) from 11 to 14 September, with SISSA – Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati as co-organiser.**

Scientists will meet to take stock of the advances in chemoreception research, encourage exchange of ideas and projects and consolidate international networks. The scientific programme of the event reveals a multidisciplinary approach to smell and taste, covering areas that range from medicine to aerospace research, and foresees the presence of numerous guests from the academic and the business world.

Trieste will be the setting, with its numerous institutions that include outstanding research and training centres in neurosciences and biology. The city reaffirms its vocation as the cradle of research, confirming its title of European City of Science 2020 and its role as host city of the next edition of the EuroScience Open Forum. The annual ECRO meeting falls within the initiatives of proESOF, a selection of events leading up to towards ESOF2020 Trieste.

Highlights

One of the most eagerly awaited speakers of the ECRO conference is **Linda Buck, Nobel Prize winner in 2004** for her pioneering studies on receptors and the functioning of olfactory systems. The scientist will give the proESOF plenary lecture entitled “Deconstructing smell”.

The speech by **Jonathan Beauchamp** from the Fraunhofer IVV Institute (Germany) will also emphasise the multidisciplinary approach of the conference with his presentation of an ESA (European Space Agency) project that investigates **olfactory perception in Space** to improve the wellbeing of astronauts during extra-terrestrial missions.

An entire symposium will focus on smell loss, in particular on its epidemiology, the tools for clinically investigating this kind of dysfunction and the current and future treatment possibilities.

What is ECRO

The European Chemoreception Research Organization was founded in 1970 in Holland and officially registered as a non-profit scientific organization in 1971 in Paris. Its goal is to promote basic and applied research in chemoreception, especially smell and taste in vertebrates and invertebrates.

ECRO meetings boast a long-standing tradition. The first official meeting was held in 1974. Since 2009, the meetings have become annual appointments and are held every autumn in a different European city. Trieste has been chosen to host the 29th edition of the event, one of the most important and eagerly awaited in this scientific sector.

USEFUL LINKS

<http://bit.ly/EcroTS2019>

IMAGE

Credits: Unsplash

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