



**Tuesday, 20th November - h 2:00 p.m.**  
Seminars Room, NICO  
Neuroscience Institute Cavalieri Ottolenghi  
Regione Gonzole 10, Orbassano (TO)

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## **Identification of neuroprotective molecules using a *C. elegans* model of Spinal Muscular Atrophy**

Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) is characterized by the progressive degeneration of motor neurons, leading to muscles atrophy, paralysis and patients death. SMA is one of the most common genetic causes of infant mortality and is caused by disruption of *Smn1*.

The mechanisms underlying motor neuron death are still elusive. We propose the use of *C.elegans* as a model system to rapidly identify new genetic partners and complementary therapies.

The use of *C.elegans* provides a powerful and low cost system to directly assess the consequences of rescuing *Smn1* loss at the organismal level, with many experimental advantages to rapidly devise effective drug discovery in a whole-animal and the unique feature to allow visualization of neurons in living animals.

**Host: Alessandro Vercelli**