

# The ELIXIR CNR.BiOmics platform: an Italian infrastructure for BIG DATA production, analysis and training



**Graziano Pesole,**  
ELIXIR-IIB Head of Node



**MICROBIOME**



Grand Challenges of Data-Intensive Science  
in Microbiome & Metagenome Data Analysis and Training

*14 October 2021*

# ELIXIR-Italy: a distributed ELIXIR Node



The Italian node of ELIXIR (ELIXIR-IT) has been formally established as a **Joint Research Unit (JRU)** - named **ELIXIR-IIB (Infrastruttura Italiana di Bioinformatica)** - and is in charge of the coordination and delivery of existing bioinformatics services at the national level, all the while ensuring they integrate perfectly in the overall ELIXIR infrastructure.

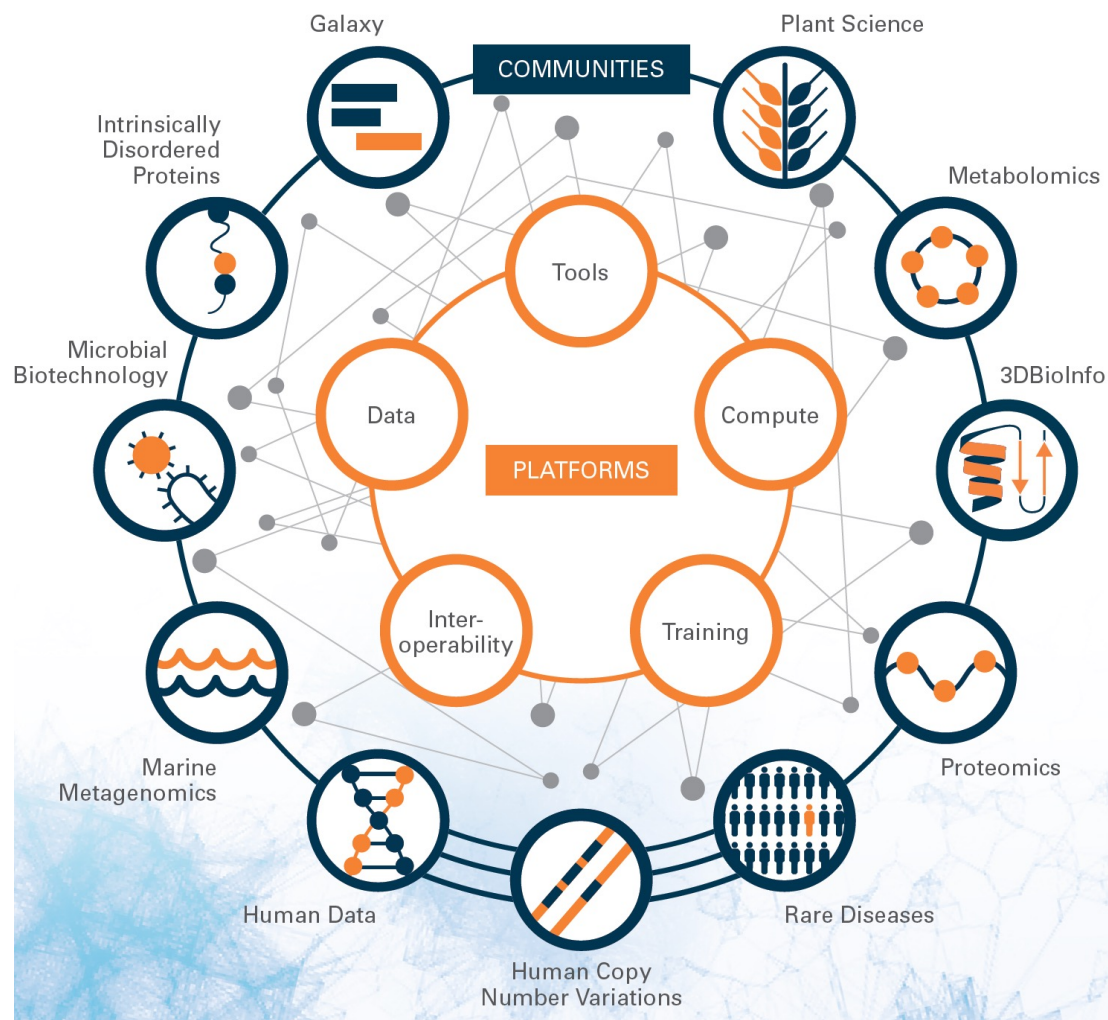
ELIXIR-IT is led by National Research Council (CNR) of Italy and currently involves **23 partners** including Universities and Research Institutions / Facilities of national relevance.

# ELIXIR-IT Organisation

The national organization of ELIXIR-IT mirrors the organization of ELIXIR at European level.

ELIXIR-IT currently includes the five operational platforms (**Compute, Data, Tools, Interoperability** and **Training**) of ELIXIR Hub and several **Thematic communities**.

ELIXIR-IT platforms coordinate the delivery of high quality computational services for life science and drive the integration of national services within the ELIXIR infrastructure ecosystem.

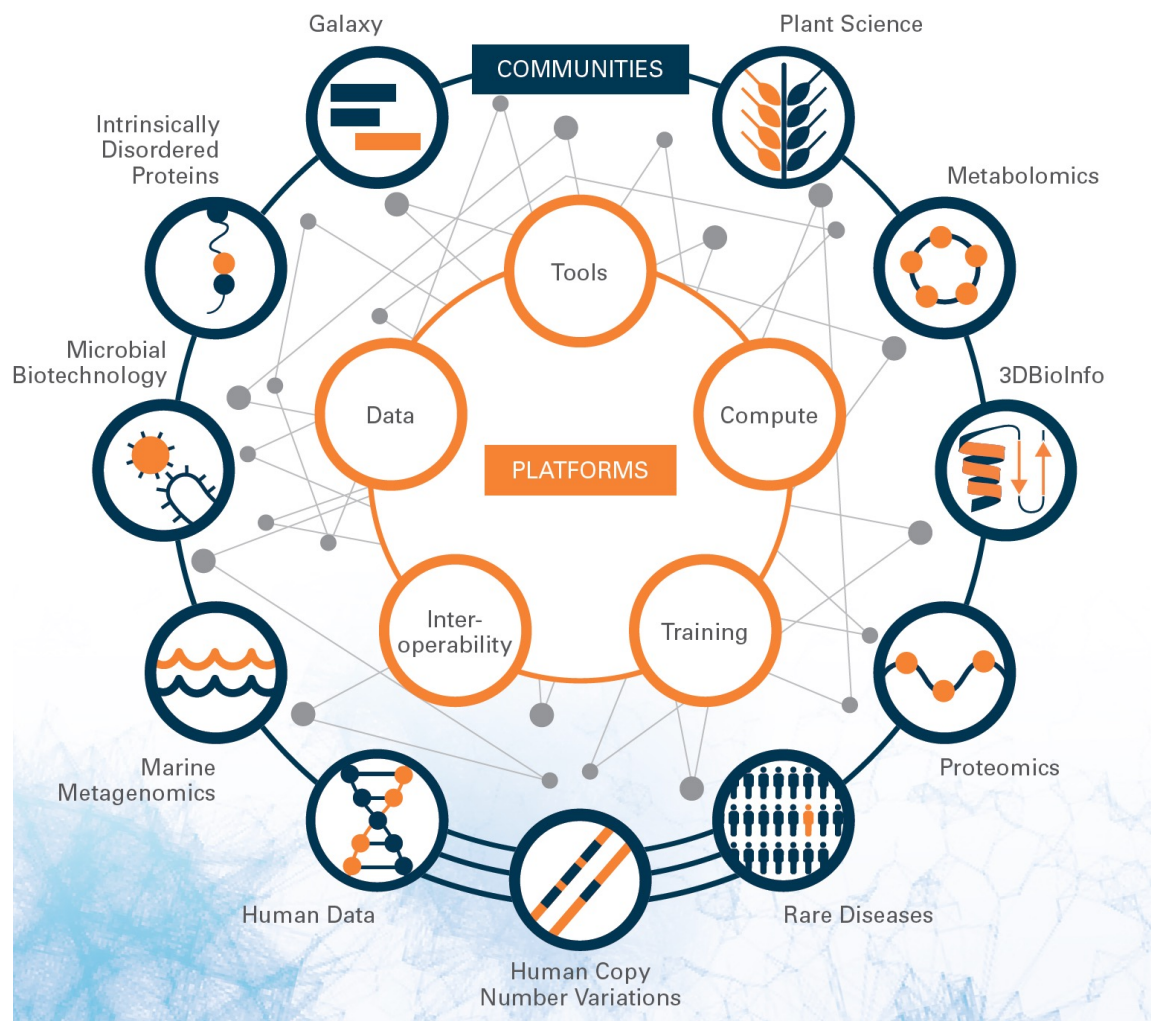


# ELIXIR-IT Operations

**ELIXIR-IT members** contribute to the construction of the Infrastructure providing services, facilities, interoperability prescriptions, and training. All contributions should comply strict quality standards and form the **SDL (Service Delivery Plan)** of ELIXIR-IT which is shared in the ELIXIR Ecosystem.

Working groups have been established both at national and European level to contribute to Platforms and Communities operation and development.

**ELIXIR-IT users** are all interested researchers in public and private bodies. A large amount of services are free, but for some it is necessary to refund running costs.





# CNR.BiOmics

BIG DATA FOR BETTER LIFE



It is currently ongoing the **CNR.BiOmics project** ("National Research Center in Bioinformatics for Omics Sciences", PIR01\_00017 14.5 M€ and CIR01\_00017 2M€) which aims to strengthen the Italian node of the European Research Infrastructure ELIXIR in the southern regions.

Coordinator **Dr. Elisabetta Sbisà**

<https://www.cnr.it/it/pon-cnr-biomics>



10X Genomics



Illumina NovaSeq 6000



Oxford Nanopore GridION



PacBio Sequel



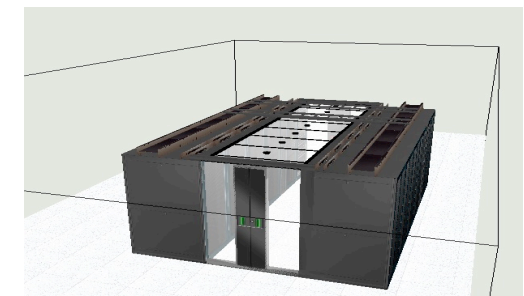
Thermo Scientific Orbitrap Fusion



Thermo Scientific LTQ XL™



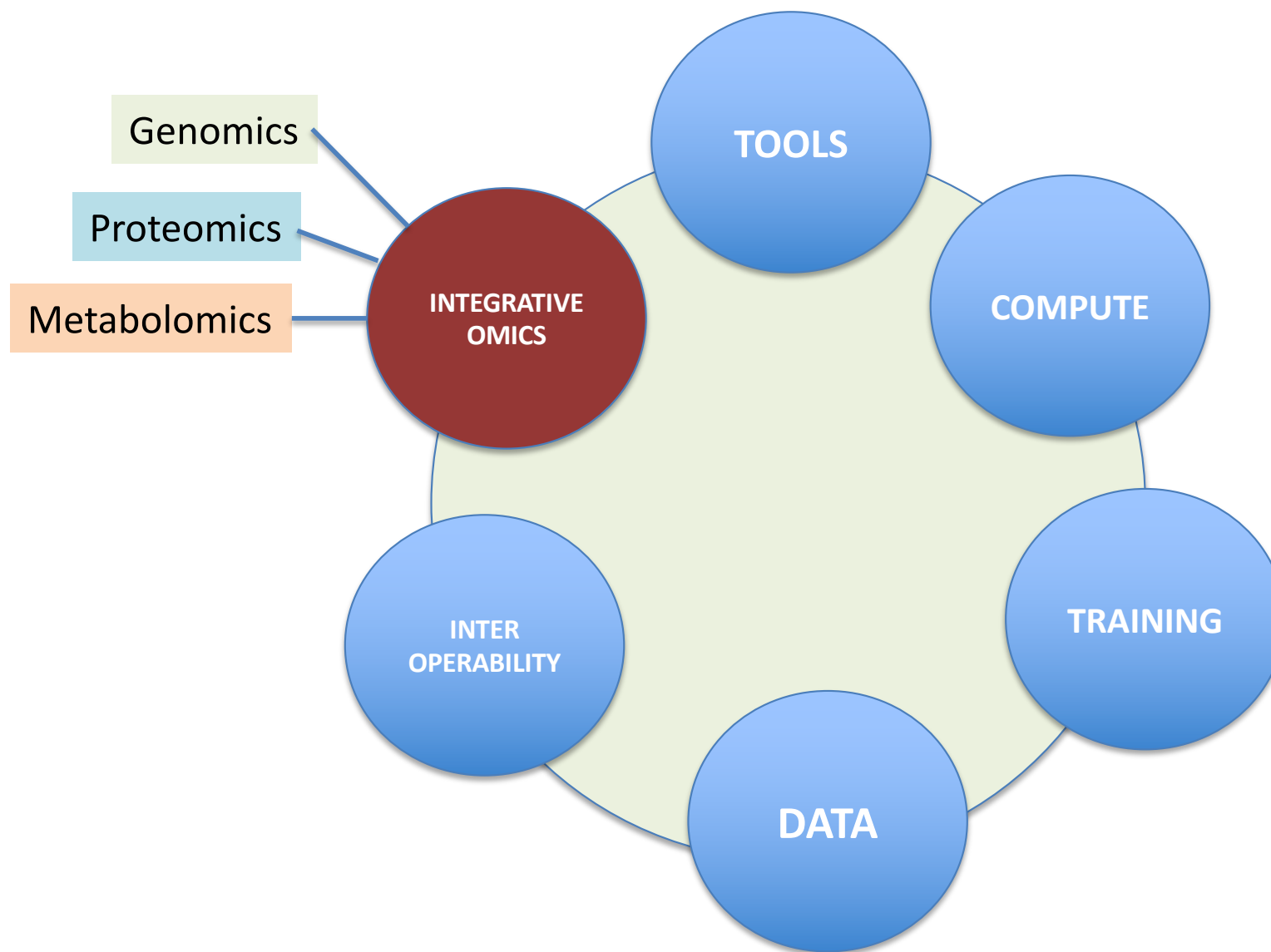
BioNano Genomics



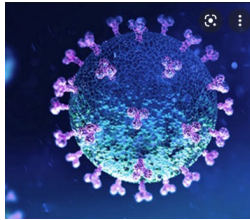
ICT Facility  
10K core – 15 PB

# ELIXIR-IT Platforms

The CNR.BiOmics project enabled the integration in ELIXIR-IT of a new Platform for “Integrative Omics” providing the user community with state of the art equipment for high-throughput generation of genomic, proteomic and metabolomic data.



# Genomics



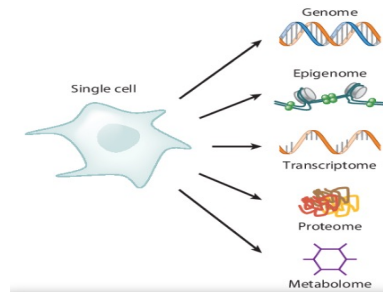
## Target Enrichment:

- Whole exome sequencing
- Pre-designed sequencing panels

## Illumina NovaSeq 6000



## 10X Genomics



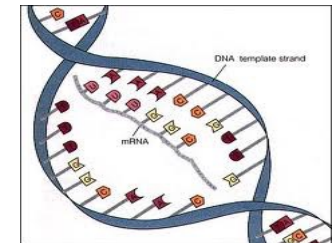
## Single cell "omics"

## PacBio Sequel

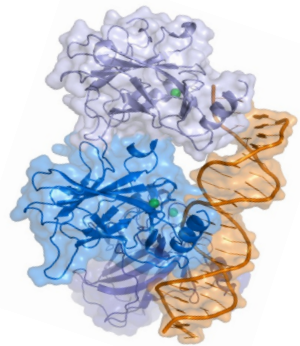


## BioNano Genomics

## Oxford Nanopore GridION

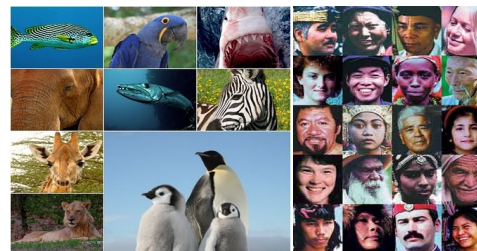


## Transcriptome



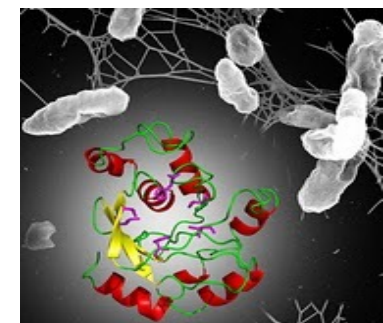
## DNA-Protein Interaction Analysis

- ChIP-seq
- ATAC-seq
- Spatial Organization of Chromatin
- Epigenome



## Whole Genome Sequencing

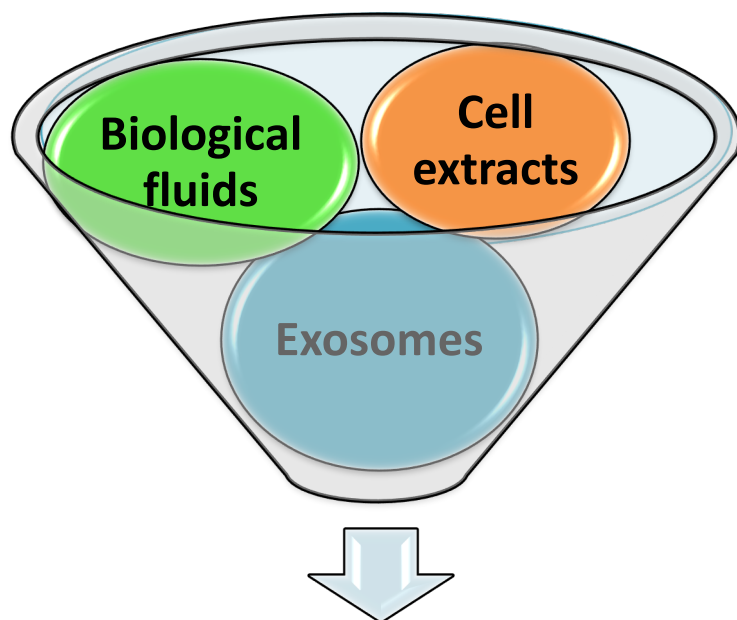
- Genome assembly
- Structural variants



## Microbiome

- Shotgun Metagenomic
- DNA Metabarcoding

# Metabolomics



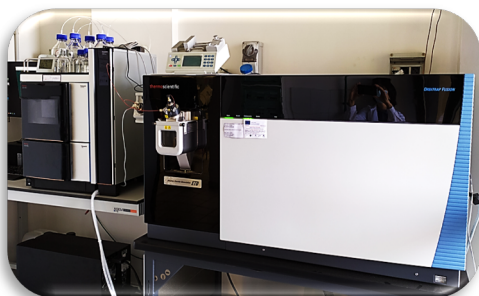
**Tribrid architecture,  
multiple  
fragmentation  
techniques and  
high-quality data  
acquisition ensure:**

**Complete Analysis of most  
challenging, low-quantity,  
high-complexity samples**

**Ability to identify more  
compounds faster**

**Thermo Scientific  
Orbitrap Fusion™**

**Thermo Scientific  
LTQ XL™**



**Unique  
analysis for  
untargeted  
Metabolomics**

**Integration with  
Proteomics and  
Genomics data**

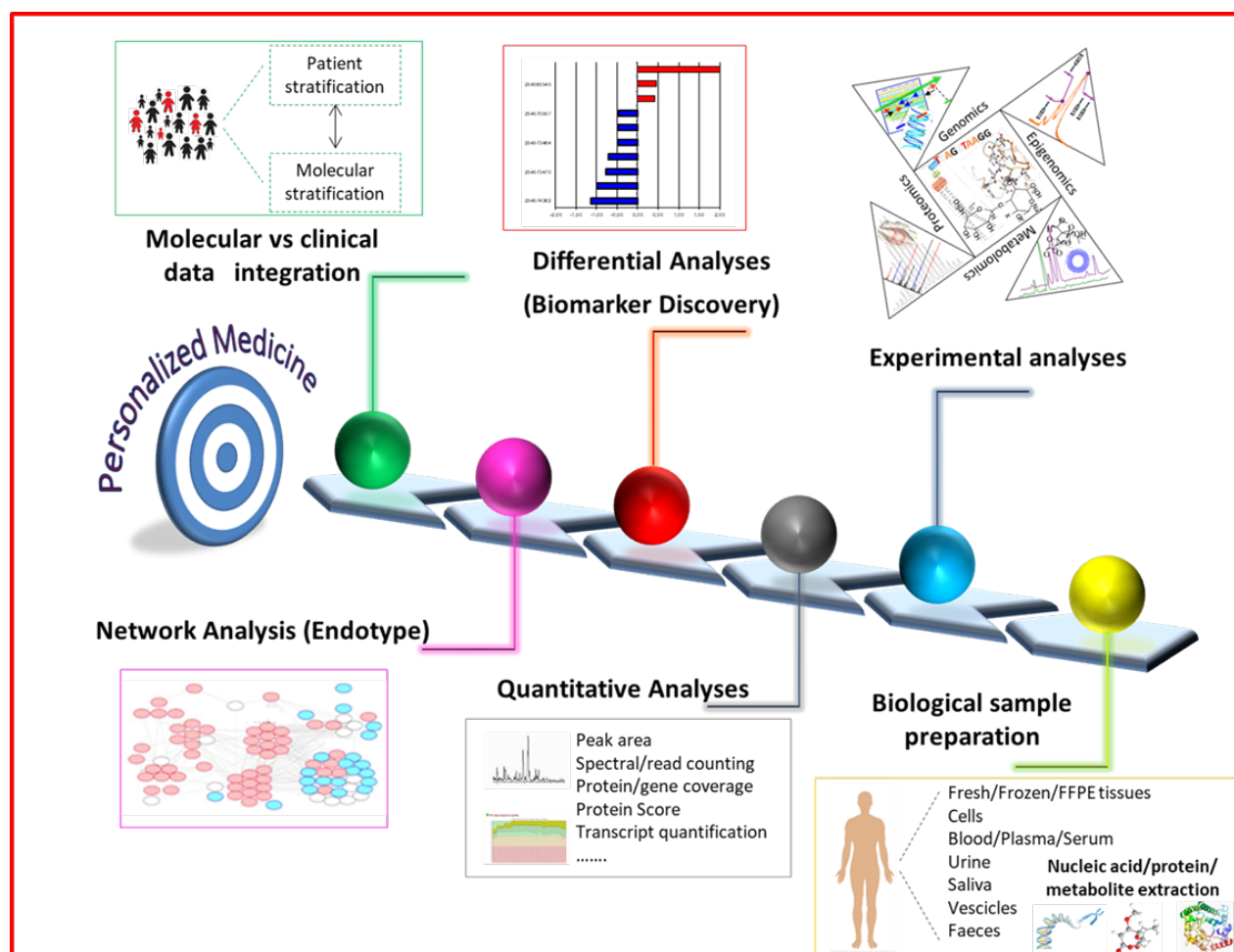
**Targeted  
Metabolomics**



The Proteomics Lab has been established as a “**data production unit**”, integrated with computational expertise, to perform multidisciplinary and applicative projects (“**knowledge factories**”), in a wide range of applications, from human to plants and microbes.



**Mass spectrometer hybrid  
TripleTOF 6600+ coupled to  
nanoLC (Sciex/Eksigen)**



## Translational Research

Discovery of **biomarkers** useful for **diagnosis**, phenotyping and **therapy** monitoring

## Basic Research

Elucidation of **molecular mechanisms (endotypes)** related to diseases and its therapies.

“...a LARGE repository for omics (BIG) data...”

## Applications

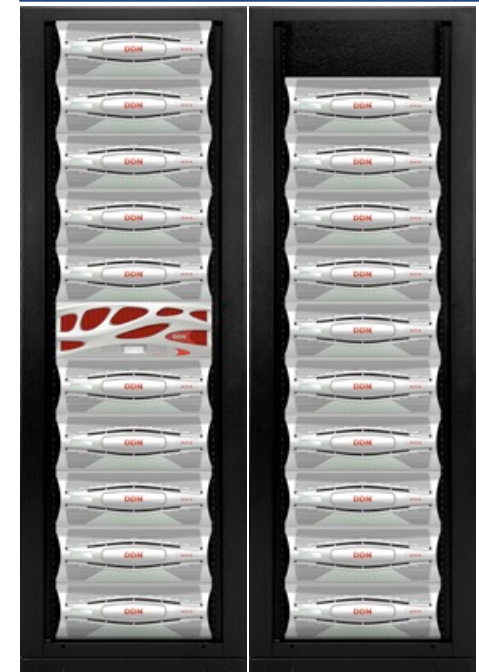
- Conservation and (mid/long-term) preservation of:
  - data and metadata produced by omics experiments
  - valuable public database
  - large datasets for bioinformatics analysis and AI applications
- Federation with research datasets to lead national and international collaborations
- Implementation of a Local Federated EGA node (European Genome-Phenome Archive)
- Secure data protection, conservation and controlled access of private and sensitive data (GDPR) conforming to Open Access and Open Science paradigms
- Geographically distributed to implement “Near Data Computing” and to guarantee efficient disaster recovery

## Technical Solution

High-performance  
Parallel Storage

**15 PB**

Bari – Milan - Naples

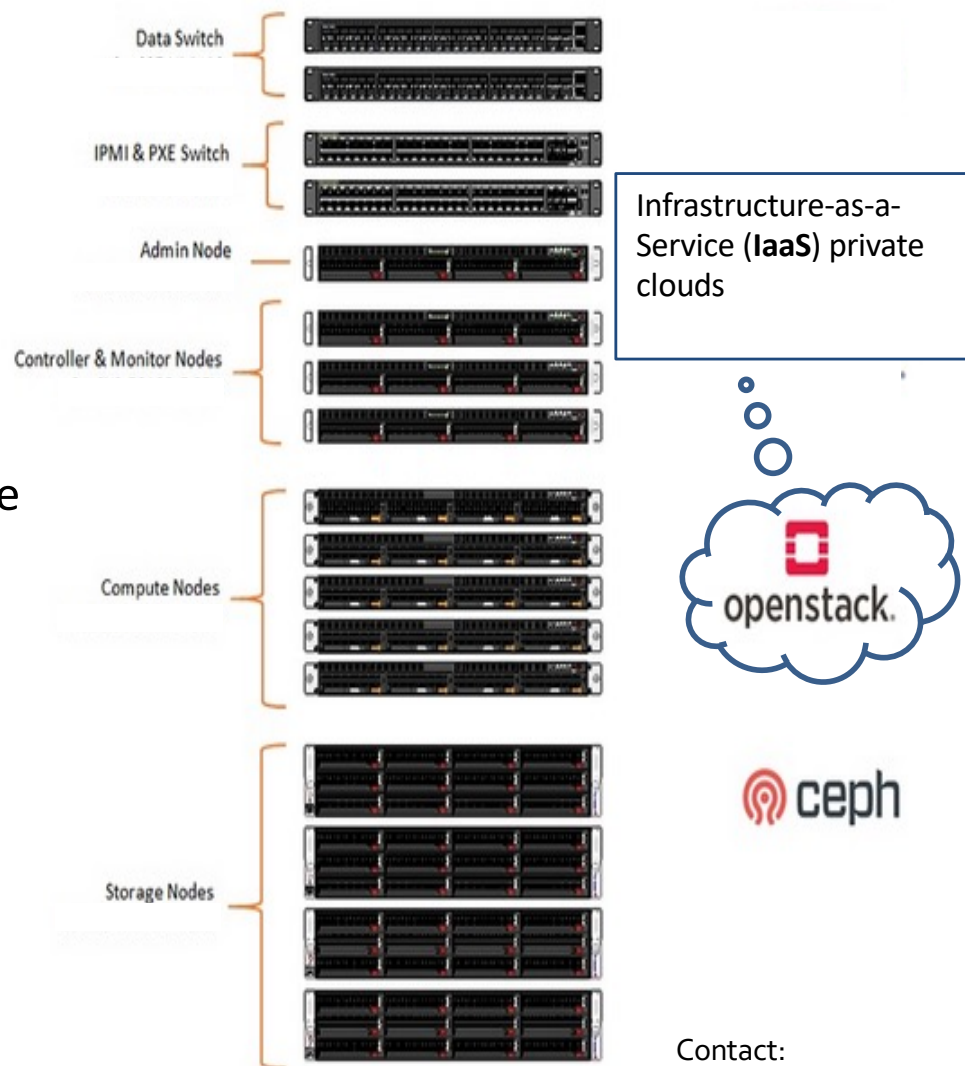


Contact:  
[flavio.licciulli@ba.itb.cnr.it](mailto:flavio.licciulli@ba.itb.cnr.it)

# Cloud Computing

- A multi-institution, distributed and federated compute and storage infrastructure
- Providing most advanced technologies in the fields of Cloud and HPC
  - Able to support the latest Artificial Intelligence and Big Data analysis solutions
- Flexible and expandable in the future aiming to support future bioinformatics use cases
- The overall infrastructure will leverage on:
  - 27,000 Cpu/cores
  - About 20Pbyte of disk storage
  - 20 NVIDIA V100 GPU
- Distributed over 4 different sites in Italy (CNR-Bari, INFN-Bari, CNR-Napoli, CNR-Milano)

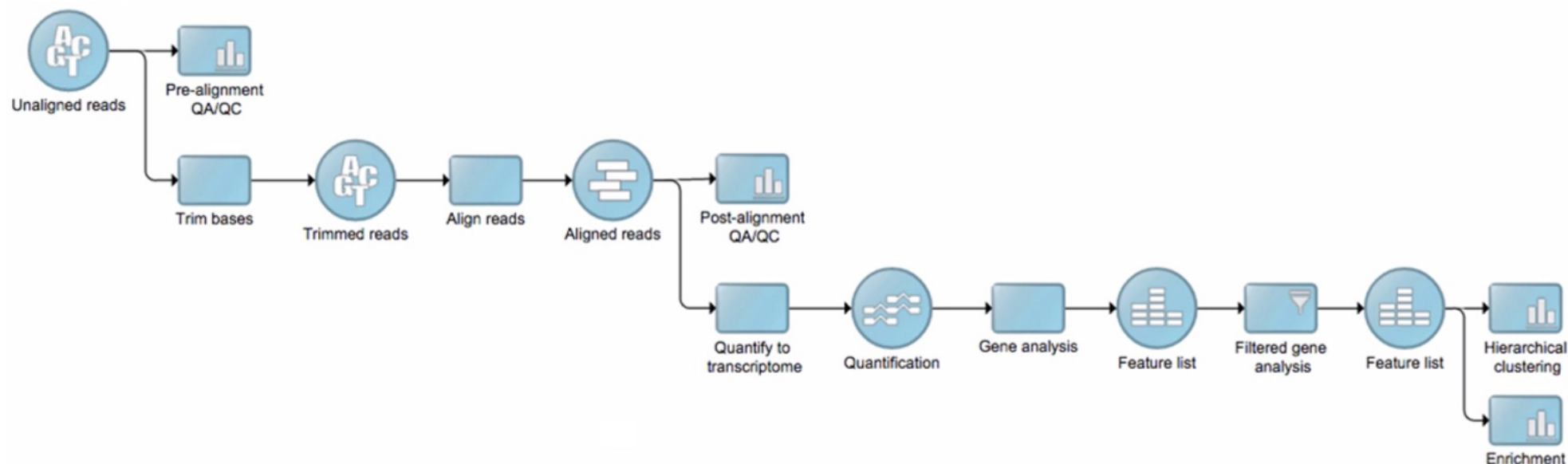
## OpenStack Cloud Platform



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The TOOLS platform will be strengthened by dedicated software:

- to automate the analysis of large NGS data (WGS, WES, RNAseq and so on) through well established pipelines;
- to facilitate the analysis of proteomic data;
- to improve the functional interpretation by the pathways analysis.





# Training

- **Infrastructural investment:**

- Training room equipment (instructor's workstation, learners' laptops, projector, printer)
- Equipment for the production of virtual lessons/courses



- **Applications**

- Deliver training courses where needed
- Design and build the ELIXIR-IT eLearning Platform (it will be running on the ReCAs servers)
- Use the technology provided by the PON to design courses according to principles of effective learning
- Offer a portfolio of opportunities to learn bioinformatics online

# ELIXIR-Italy: Access Program



ELIXIR-IT already provides a rich portfolio of computational services through its technological partners (e.g. HPC@CINECA, LANIAKEA, etc.) usually for free. The completion of the CNR.BiOmics project, with the establishment of the new “Integrative Omics” platform for data generation requires the establishment of a more structured access program, thus making possible the full exploitation of the infrastructural facilities. We plan to start by September 2021, following the model below.

- 1 User apply for a service filling a web form exposing the “services portfolio” including all platform services (e.g. Compute, Integrative Omics, etc.)
- 2 The request is evaluated for feasibility and scientific appropriateness by the specific Platform committee
- 3 The request approval is notified to the user and the service delivery may start (for free or under the running costs refunding, depending on the service)
- 4 A suitable platform team will assist users in services delivery (e.g. for the Integrative Omics platform will collaborate in the final design of the experiment and give useful indications for the preparation of the samples.

## **Genomics**

Apollonia Tullo  
Anna Maria D'Erchia  
Carmela Gissi  
Flaviana Marzano  
Mariano Caratozzolo  
Caterina Manzari

## **Compute**

Giacinto Donvito  
Flavio Licciulli  
Marco Tangaro  
Roberto Bellotti



BIG DATA FOR BETTER LIFE



## **Proteomics**

Pierluigi Mauri  
Dario Di Silvestre

## **Tools**

Ernesto Picardi  
Giorgio Grillo

## **Metabolomics**

Sergio Giannattasio  
Clara Musicco  
Giuseppe Petrosillo  
Bruno Fosso  
Fabrizio Mastrorocco  
Angelo Facchiano  
Virginia Carbone

## **Training**

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Domenica D'Elia

## **Direction and Administration**

Elisabetta Sbisà  
Laura Marra

## **CNR referents**

Cabina di regia  
Dep. Biomedical Science

# ELIXIR IIB Contacts

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## PLATFORMS

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