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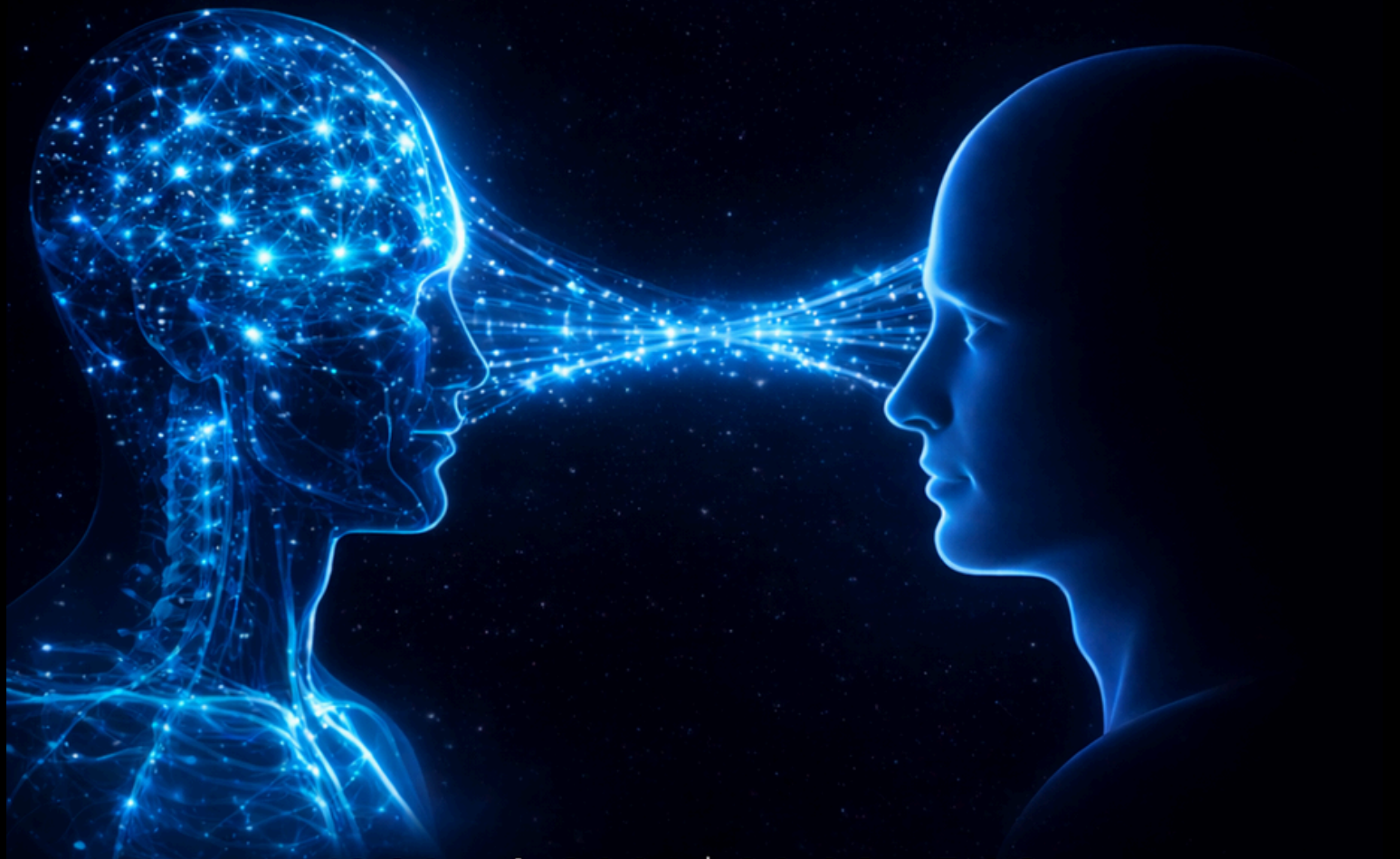
BODY REPRESENTATION

A BRIDGE BETWEEN PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY



19 March 2026 | 09:00–13:00

Aula Magna, COSPECS

Via Concezione 6–8 • University of Messina

Keynote Speaker

Prof. Jamie Feusner, MD

University of Toronto | CAMH

DIPARTIMENTO di SCIENZE COGNITIVE, PSICOLOGICHE, PEDAGOGICHE E STUDI CULTURALI

Lab of Cognitive Processes and Bodily Experience

CENTRO NEUROLESI BONINO PULEJO IRCCS MESSINA

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Neural Mechanisms and Translational Perspectives

COSPECS, University of Messina & IRCCS Centro Neurolesi "Bonino-Pulejo"

Part of the Visiting Professor Programme – Prof. Jamie Feusner, MD

Scientific Organiser: Valentina Cazzato, PhD - Associate Professor in Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Messina

INVITED SPEAKERS

Maria Grazia Maggio / Federica Impellizzeri
IRCCS Bonino-Pulejo, Messina, Italy

Federica Scarpina
University of Torino / IRCSS Istituto Auxologico Italiano – Ospedale Piancavallo (VCO), Italy

Viola Oldrati
IRCCS Eugenio Medea - Bosisio Parini (LC), Italy

PROGRAM

09:00 – Welcome & Registration

09:30 – Institutional Opening |
Prof. Carmelo Maria Porto, PhD Director, Department of COSPECS

09:45 – Scientific Framing |
Dr Valentina Cazzato, PhD
Associate Professor in Cognitive Neuroscience, COSPECS, University of Messina
Body Representation: a Translational Bridge Between Psychiatry and Neurology

10:00 – Keynote Lecture | Prof. Jamie Feusner, MD
Professor of Psychiatry, Division of Neurosciences and Clinical Translation, University of Toronto & Senior Scientist at the Brain Health Imaging Centre at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)

Creating a Comprehensive Brain Model of Body Image in Health and Disease

Body image distortion is a core feature of conditions such as anorexia nervosa and body dysmorphic disorder, yet the neural mechanisms underlying the construction of internal body representations remain unclear. This lecture presents an integrative programme combining behavioural modelling, digital avatar tools (Somatomap 3D), fMRI, eye tracking and emotional measures to identify the neural and cognitive factors contributing to body size misperception. By isolating measurable markers of distorted body representation across healthy and clinical populations, this work aims to inform early detection and guide the development of targeted behavioural and neuromodulatory interventions.

11:00 – Scientific Interaction Break

11:20 – Clinical & Translational Perspectives
Dr Maria Grazia Maggio, PhD / Federica Impellizzeri
IRCCS Centro Neurolesi "Bonino-Pulejo"
Rehabilitating the Self: Body Representation in Neurorehabilitation

Dr Federica Scarpina, PhD
University of Torino / IRCCS Auxologico Piancavallo
Insight from Motor Imagery: How to (Not) Explore Body Representation in Anorexia Nervosa

Dr Viola Oldrati, PhD
IRCCS Eugenio Medea – La Nostra Famiglia
Translational Brain Stimulation Protocols in Neurodevelopmental Disorders: Network Modulation for Sensorimotor and Cognitive Rehabilitation

Strategic Round Table: Advancing Translational Perspectives on Body Representation | Moderated by Prof. Angelo Quartarone, MD
IRCCS Centro Neurolesi "Bonino-Pulejo"
An interdisciplinary discussion focused on:

- Emerging models of body representation across clinical domains
- Translational implications for neurological and psychiatric conditions
- Integrating behavioural, neuroimaging and neuromodulation approaches
- Opportunities for future collaborative research initiatives

Open exchange across disciplines and career stages.

13:00 – Closing Remarks

Agli studenti partecipanti saranno riconosciuti 0,25 CFU previa compilazione di un questionario sui temi trattati.

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