



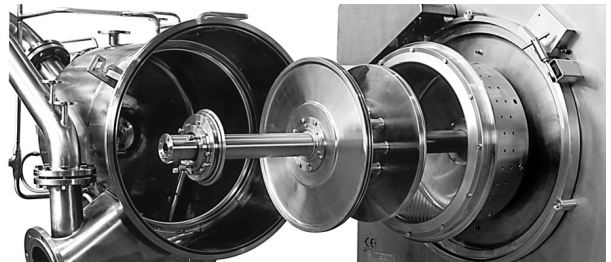
# Italian Technology & Italian FDI in North Carolina



Honorary Consulate  
of North Carolina

## Sixth Round Table: Italian Technology in the Pharmaceutical & Chemical Industries

Presented by:  
the Honorary Consul of Italy to  
North Carolina & CCI-NC



Raleigh, NC  
October 17, 2022



# Program

Reception Welcome Remarks:	Prof. Valentina Cecchi Dean Frank Buckless
Round Table Welcome Remarks:	Prof. Valentina Cecchi
Address by the Italian Ambassador:	H.E. Mariangela Zappia
Italian Technology & FDI Overview:	Prof. Valentina Cecchi Prof. Luca David Opromolla
Company Presentations & Moderated Discussion:	Prof. Stefano Menegatti Mr. Jon Zwinski Mrs. Jessica Astoria Dr. Amir Fadel Mr. Mario Masetto
Closing Remarks:	Prof. Valentina Cecchi Mr. Robert Sandruck

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## About the Round Table Series

The Round Table series, organized by the Honorary Consul of Italy to North Carolina and sponsored by CCI-NC, aims to ensure Italy becomes synonymous with technology, innovation, and business; not just food, fashion, and culture. These discussions provide an opportunity for professionals and academics to display and promote Italian technology and the impact Italian companies have on the economy of North Carolina. With over 100 businesses in the state, Italian businesses are bringing innovations to their fields and providing significant job opportunities for North Carolinians.

Previous Round Tables have focused on the energy sector, infrastructure, design furniture, and technology and investment more generally. In this sixth edition, we focus on the **Pharmaceutical & Chemical Industries**. North Carolina is a leader in the biotechnology & pharmaceutical industry with over 790 companies, thanks in part to the Research Triangle Park and the R&D powerhouses of Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and NC State University (among others). We will hear first-hand how Italian technology has contributed to making our state #3 in Pharma manufacturing and the leader in the southeast for the largest chemicals manufacturing workforce.

## Special Guest Speakers



**H.E. Mariangela Zappia**

*Italian Ambassador to the United States*

Ambassador Zappia is a career diplomat with over 35 years of professional experience. She is the first woman in her country to hold the position of Ambassador to the United States, and she was also the first woman Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in New York and to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). She has also been the first woman Diplomatic Advisor to the Italian Prime Minister and G7/G20

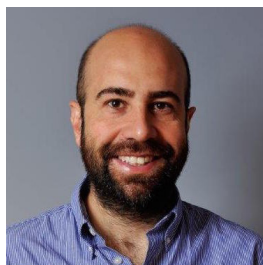
Sherpa. Ambassador Zappia speaks fluent English and French, and has a good knowledge of Spanish. She holds a Master's degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Florence and a Postgraduate degree in Diplomatic and International Relations from the same University. She was awarded the decoration of "Commendatore" (Commander) of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic. In 2019 she was awarded the "Mela d'Oro" (Golden Apple) by the "Fondazione Marisa Bellisario" in recognition of her contribution to the advancement of women in public institutions.



**Prof. Valentina Cecchi**

*Honorary Consul of Italy to North Carolina; Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering, UNC Charlotte; & President of CCI-NC*

Dr. Cecchi completed her Ph.D. from Drexel University in 2010 before joining UNC Charlotte as a faculty member in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. Her research focuses on electric power system modeling and analysis. She has published over 60 technical papers and has led research projects with the National Science Foundation, the U.S. DOE, the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI), Duke Energy, and EPB, among others. In 2013, she received the Charlotte Business Journal Young Leader in Energy award. Dr. Cecchi is the Graduate Program Director for the ECE Department, she leads the Power Delivery Innovation Group, and is an Associate of the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC). Dr. Cecchi was appointed as Honorary Consul of Italy to North Carolina in 2022. She also serves as President of CCI-NC.



**Prof. Luca David Opromolla**

*Owens Distinguished Professor of International Economics, Poole College of Management, NC State University*

Prof. Opromolla performs research in international trade, industrial organization, and labor economics. He is a senior fellow of the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington DC, a Research Fellow of CEPR and CESifo, and REM UECE at the University of Lisbon, as well as a fellow of the Ostrom Workshop at Indiana University. He was a Visiting

Professor at the University of Maryland in 2014 and 2016, and his research receives support from the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia in Portugal. His Ph.D. and MA are both in Economics from New York University, while his BA is from Bocconi University in Italy.

## Panelists



### **Prof. Stefano Menegatti - Moderator**

*Associate Professor, University Faculty Scholar, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, NC State University*

Prof. Menegatti received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from NC State University, having received his M.Sc. and B.Sc. from the Università di Bologna. His research group focuses on new technologies for purifying high-value therapeutics (recombinant proteins, gene therapy vectors, and stem cells), diagnostics, and targeted drug delivery. In 2021 he received the ALCOA

Foundation Research Achievement Award from the College of Engineering, the Goodnight Early Career Innovator award, and was selected for the 2020-2021 class of University Faculty Scholars. Prof. Menegatti has garnered more than \$32M in external research funding from federal agencies (NSF, NIH, and NIST) and global biopharmaceutical companies (Merck, Genentech, MilliporeSigma, BioRad, CSL Behring, Johnson & Johnson, and KBI Biopharma). Together with Prof. Ruben Carbonell and Dr. Gary Gilleskie, he leads the AIM-Bio Research Institute, funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation. Prof. Menegatti is also the co-founder and CTO of LigaTrap Technologies ([www.ligatrap.com](http://www.ligatrap.com)), which manufactures and sells globally technologies for the purification of biological drugs.



### **Mr. Jon Zwinski**

*General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, Chiesi USA*

Mr. Zwinski was named General Manager and CEO in January 2021. Since joining Chiesi USA in 2012, he has held numerous executive positions focused on the growth of the company's commercial organization across multiple therapeutic categories. Immediately prior to his current role, he served as Senior Vice President of Sales and Head of the Cardiovascular Business Unit. In his 25+ year career as a pharmaceutical executive, Jon

has worked in multiple therapeutic areas, including anesthesia, women's health, emergency medicine, psychiatry, neurology, neonatology, urology, cardiovascular, and cystic fibrosis.



Chiesi USA, Inc., headquartered in Cary, North Carolina, is a specialty pharmaceutical company focused on commercialization of products for the hospital and target office-based specialties.

The Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of family-owned Chiesi Farmaceutici S.p.A, a global R&D-focused pharmaceutical company based in Parma, Italy. In the United States, the Company delivers therapies and enhances care for patients in the areas of acute cardiology, neonatology and cystic fibrosis. Recognized as a Certified B Corporation™, Chiesi is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of its communities through its employee-led corporate social responsibility program, Chiesi in the Community. Innovation, collaboration and impact are the cornerstones of the Chiesi culture.

[www.chiesiusa.com](http://www.chiesiusa.com)

## Panelists



### **Mrs. Jessica Astoria, PE**

*Director of Engineering, Comi Polaris Systems, Inc.*

Mrs. Astoria received her B.S. in Chemical Engineering from NC State University. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in North Carolina and has over 20 years of experience in the industry. Before working for Comi Polaris Systems, she was the VP of Engineering and Product Development at LCI Corporation. She has also worked as a process engineer for Chemtex International.



Comi Polaris Systems (CPS) is a joint venture between Comi Condor and the Polaris Group. Together, they are global leaders in customized separation technologies. As such, CPS offers a

complete line of filtering centrifuges; filter and vacuum dryers; and cryogenic technologies. Based in Charlotte, North Carolina, CPS is home to engineering, project support, after-market service, administration, and equipment sales.

[www.comipolaris.com](http://www.comipolaris.com)



### **Dr. Amir Fadel, Ph.D.**

*Technical Manager, Comi Condor, S.p.A.*

Dr. Fadel received his M.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Politecnico di Milano, and his Ph.D. from Drexel University. Dr. Fadel joined Comi Condor in 2016. As Technical Manager, he directs the three departments of engineering at Comi Condor (Mechanical, Electronic, and Software) and doubles as Project Manager under special occurrences. Before joining the company, Dr. Fadel was a research engineer with Isoil Impianti S.p.A.



Comi Condor is a leading manufacturer of filtering batch centrifuges with clients ranging from pharmaceutical companies, to sugar and sweeteners, to chemical and fine chemical specialists. Founded in 1885 in Milan, Italy, Comi Condor offers a complete range of centrifuges, with over 4,000 machines installed worldwide. State-of-the-art quality and customized solutions are built upon over a century of experience in centrifugation, as well as a completely integrated production cycle. R&D, engineering,

fabrication, software development, and documentation are all made in-house by engineers with an average of 20+ years of experience in each specific field of application.

[www.comicondor.com](http://www.comicondor.com)



## Panelists



**Mr. Mario Masetto**

*Chief Operating Officer, Polaris, srl*

Mr. Masetto received his graduate degree in Chemical Engineering from Politecnico di Milano. He wrote an experimental thesis on the modeling of complex kinetic systems. After school, he first worked as a Project Engineer with Sapio. In 1996, he co-founded Polaris, srl, which has grown into the Polaris Group. He acts as the COO and one of the main Project Managers for the company. He currently also works as a consultant for Princeton University for gas purification technologies and separation systems.



**Polaris**

Polaris is an engineering company that provides process and separation technological solutions. Founded in 1996 in Misinto, Italy, the company was established by professionals

with extensive experience in the bulk pharmaceutical and industrial gases sectors. With a constant focus on R&D, Polaris has patented process technologies including cryogenic condensation, internal reflux distillation, and adsorption onto macro porous resins. At present, more than 350 units have been installed – all built with the same spirit to continuously improve technologies and products. Polaris can proudly list among its customers several of the most prestigious Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Petrochemical and Refinery/Oil&Gas firms worldwide.

The Polaris Group was born as a merger between Polaris, srl and Delta Costruzioni Meccaniche. Delta's capabilities extend to Nutsche Filter Dryers, Vacuum Dryers, Drum Flakers, Reactors, Heat Exchangers, Pressure Vessels, and other process systems, with several thousand units of equipment successfully produced since its foundation in 1968.

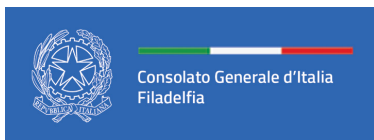
[www.polarisengineering.com](http://www.polarisengineering.com)

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## A Special Thank You

In addition to CCI-NC's current Rosso-level corporate sponsors (America-Italy Society of Philadelphia, Biesse America, Comi Polaris Systems, Kask America, LC America, Management inSites, PDM US, and Salice America), this event would not have been possible without additional funding from the Consulate General of Italy in Philadelphia. Thank you!



# Poole College of Management

**NC STATE**

## Poole College of Management

CCI-NC is partnering with the Poole College of Management at NC State University for this Sixth Round Table. In addition to being a great business school, Poole has an International Business Dual Degree Program. With five languages to choose from, including an Italian track, the degree incorporates two years of study at NC State, two years of study at an international partner institution, two internships and two degrees from two institutions--all in four years! It's a great option for those considering a global business career.

We are thrilled to have these additional speakers during the Reception and Round Table from the Poole College of Management:



### **Dean Frank Buckless**

*Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean of the Poole College of Management, NC State University*

Dr. Buckless became the Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean of the Poole College of Management at NC State University on July 1, 2019. Under his 18 year leadership of the Department of Accounting, the undergraduate and graduate accounting programs experienced significant growth and recognition, and the department received initial accreditation from the AACSB. Dean Buckless received his doctorate in accounting from Michigan State University.

He brought valuable corporate experience to Poole College from his tenure as auditor with Arthur Andersen and Company and is often invited to educate and train auditing professionals. Before academia, he was an auditor with Arthur Andersen and Company. He has published books and in top journals on accounting education, audit, and sustainability. Along with colleagues Dr. Kathy Krawczyk and Scott Showalter, Dr. Buckless received the 2016 American Accounting Association's (AAA) "Innovation in Accounting Education Award" for their use of Second Life virtual reality world to enhance the classroom learning experience.



### **Mr. Robert Sandruck**

*Director of Global Programs, Undergraduate Programs, Poole College of Management, NC State University*

Mr. Sandruck joined the Poole College of Management at NC State in December 2010 as the first full-time Director of Global Programs. In this role, he created a portfolio of international programs allowing students to pursue management education within a global context. Prior to joining Poole College, he worked at Duke University where he served as the Director the Executive

MBA Programs. He has a Master of Education from the University of South Carolina and a Bachelor of Economics from Towson University.



CCI-NC is a non-profit organization proudly promoting Italian business, technology, language, and culture in North Carolina.

[www.CCI-NC.org](http://www.CCI-NC.org)

