

Aspen Institute Italia Award: a research project on Ebola wins

Spatiotemporal spread of the 2014 outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia and the effectiveness of non-pharmaceutical intervention: a computational modelling analysis. This is the title of the project declared winner of the first edition (2016) of the [Aspen Institute Italia Award](#) for scientific research and collaboration between Italy and the United States. The study was undertaken by five scientific organizations – two Italian and three American – with the following ten researchers:

- 1) **Bruno Kessler Foundation - Trento - ITALY**
co-authors of the study: Stefano Merler, MS; Marco Ajelli, PhD; Laura Fumanelli, PhD.
- 2) **Institute for Scientific Interchange - Turin - ITALY**
co-author of the study: Luca Rossi, PhD.
- 3) **Laboratory for the Modeling of Biological and Socio-Technical Systems (MOBS-LAB) - Northeastern University, Boston, MA - USA**
co-authors of the study: Prof. Alessandro Vespignani, PhD; Marcelo F.C. Gomes, PhD; Ana Pastore y Piontti, PhD.
- 4) **Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle, WA - USA**
co-authors of the study: M. Elizabeth Halloran, DSc; Dennis L. Chao. PhD.
- 5) **Department of Biostatistics, College of Public Health, Health Professions, and Emerging Pathogens Institute - University of Florida, Gainesville, FL - USA**
co-author of the study: Prof. Ira M. Longini Jr, PhD.

The winning research project was published in January 2015 in the prestigious journal *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, the foremost publication on infectious diseases. The study aimed to construct a mathematical model explaining how the Ebola virus spread during the Liberian epidemic (2014), based on the movements in space and over time of both healthy and infected individuals. The results were deemed relevant from an applied perspective, in that they can reduce the future spread of the Ebola virus, also in countries like Italy, far from the initial outburst.

THE AWARD

The *Aspen Institute Italia Award* for scientific research and collaboration between Italy and the United States was launched in December 2015 in keeping with the Institute's commitment to encouraging and developing international leadership and transatlantic relations. Every year, the prize will be awarded to a research project studying applied or theoretical natural sciences, in which scientists and/or organizations from Italy and the US collaborate.

The Award Rules and any other relevant information are available at www.aspeninstitute.it

The Prize consolidates the Institute's commitment towards initiatives and meetings on important topics in the fields of science and technological innovation, with particular reference to their relevance to Italy. The Jury comprises Aspen Italia Chairman Giulio Tremonti (chair), Luciano Maiani, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Rome's La Sapienza University, and Lucio Stanca, Vice Chairman of Aspen Institute Italia and former Minister for Innovation and Technology.