



## Alessandro Laio elected president of CECAM



### An important recognition for Italian and Triestine Computer Science

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Atomistic and molecular simulations are one of the pillars of scientific research. By exploiting new algorithms and computational methods, computer simulations allow us to study the behavior of inorganic and living matter and stimulate progress in experimental sciences. CECAM is a center of excellence in this area, which includes first-rate institutions across Europe. Alessandro Laio, professor at the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) in Trieste was elected President on 24 November during an official meeting held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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The Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire is located in Lausanne at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale (EPFL), as well as in various locations across Europe, and plays a unique, first-class role in the field of European and international computational science. The Center coordinates 25 European institutions, whose representatives make up the Council, which is responsible for the long-term strategy of the Center and for electing the president. There are four



Italian members: SISSA, the Scuola Normale of Pisa, CNR and the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Genoa.

"This is important recognition not only on a personal level, but also for SISSA," says Laio. "My election demonstrates that the Italian computational community, in particular the one in Trieste, has an important role at the European level."

"The President's job is act as a bridge between the Council of representatives of the member institutions and the Director of CECAM, Ignatio Pagonabarraga, who has an operational and coordinative role in Lausanne," explains Laio.

Laio's term in office is two years, after which he may be re-elected for another year.

#### **USEFUL LINKS:**

- CECAM website: [www.cecarn.org](http://www.cecarn.org)

#### **IMAGE:**

- Credits: EPFL

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