

AIRC Foundation and GESAC present a three-year partnership to support cancer research and awareness on prevention issues.

Awarded to Dr. Annarita Nappi, researcher of the University of Naples Federico II, the scholarship of AIRC Foundation supported by GESAC.

Naples, February 18, 2025 – **AIRC Foundation** and **GESAC** present the initiatives of their comprehensive three-year partnership, active since last year, with the dual aim of supporting the training of young research talents and promoting prevention issues to raise awareness among both the internal company audience and the broader public travelling through Capodichino Airport about the importance of adopting healthy behaviours to reduce cancer risk.

This collaboration has already seen a significant result with the awarding of the **three-year AIRC scholarship** supported by GESAC to **Dr. Annarita Nappi**, a researcher at the Physiology Laboratory in the research group of Professor Dentice, at the Department of Clinical Medicine and Surgery of the University of Naples Federico II. “AIRC has been part of my past with a previous training project, it is part of my present thanks to the scholarship funded by GESAC, and I hope it can continue to accompany me in the future to achieve important results in cancer treatment,” explains Dr. Nappi. “The project I will develop in the coming years at the Department of Clinical Medicine and Surgery at the University of Naples Federico II focuses on understanding the role of hormones in the formation and progression of skin tumors, specifically I will concentrate on squamous cell carcinoma, a particular type of cancer that global estimates indicate is on the rise. Additionally, I will study the effects of thyroid hormones in inducing genomic instability and inflammation.”

The partnership between AIRC Foundation and GESAC includes a second important initiative dedicated to raising awareness about cancer prevention through an **interactive digital totem** in the departure lounge of the Naples airport. Since last June, this device has allowed passengers in transit to inform themselves, measure their knowledge about healthy behaviors, and test themselves with themed quizzes and games. Furthermore, the totem offers the opportunity to make a donation to concretely support AIRC's research projects. At the same time, the company has implemented a sensitivity awareness plan specifically designed for its employees, with monthly content on the value of healthy habits, updates on research progress, and initiatives developed by AIRC. Additionally, GESAC has provided free advertising space within the airport to support communication activities for the Foundation's national campaigns.

“As a company, our mission goes far beyond airport management: we believe it is our duty to create lasting value for local communities and society as a whole. We are firmly convinced that companies must combine economic profitability with a positive social impact,” declares **Roberto Barbieri, CEO of GESAC**. “Through our partnership with AIRC Foundation, we contribute to the development of innovative long-term therapies that help improve the quality of life for citizens, offering concrete opportunities to the best scientific talents in Italy. At the same time, we strive to promote a culture of prevention, actively involving both our employees and the millions of passengers who transit through the airport each year. Supporting independent research is not just a social responsibility act, but a strategic investment for the future.”

“I would like to thank Rector Matteo Lorito for the hospitality on this important day for us and for the entire GESAC team, to whom we express our sincere gratitude for choosing to support us with a comprehensive and far-reaching project,” says **Daniele Finocchiaro, CEO of AIRC Foundation**. “Today we award Dr. Nappi the scholarship funded by GESAC, which further strengthens the territorial value of our partnership. I am also pleased to highlight the great importance given to prevention issues in this project. We know that up to 40% of new cancer cases could be avoided if each of us adopted four concrete actions, choosing to take charge of our health with a balanced diet, regular physical activity, adherence to screenings, and above all, quitting smoking. Conveying this message in such a convinced and participatory manner indicates great foresight and sensitivity towards one's customers and employees.”

“We fuel the passion of a researcher. Federico II is the home of this initiative, which has a special character because it brings together three different entities that converge on a path centered on research and the skills of young researchers. As Federico II, we support our talents and the initiatives that offer them opportunities. This is why the collaboration with Gesac and AIRC becomes natural: it allows those who are passionate and want to do something for the community to grow and develop their projects,” emphasizes **Matteo Lorito, Rector Magnificus of the University of Naples Federico II**.

The collaboration between the AIRC Foundation and GESAC continues in these weeks, commemorating the **sixtieth anniversary of AIRC**. Indeed, within the Capodichino airport, the institutional advertisement dedicated to this important milestone is currently on air. AIRC was founded in 1965 and today represents **the first private funding hub for independent cancer research in Italy**. Over 60 years, it has allocated approximately 2.5 billion euros to research, significantly contributing to a 54% increase in the number of people who have overcome cancer (data from 10 years after diagnosis, between 2010 and 2020). Thanks to the trust of 4.5 million supporters and the commitment of 20,000 volunteers, AIRC continues to strengthen its role,

making over 141 million euros available to the scientific community for 2025, funds aimed at supporting the work of 5,400 researchers dedicated to developing projects to improve cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment prospects.

Video story of the AIRC-GESAC collaboration: <https://youtu.be/90z1XymcyGI>

GESAC (Gestione Servizi Aeroportuali Campani) is the management company of the airports of Naples and Salerno. Naples Airport, the main gateway of Southern Italy, recorded 12.65 million passengers in 2024 and offers direct connections to 120 destinations served by 39 airlines. In particular, this year there will be 43 weekly direct flights to six North American airports: Atlanta, Chicago, Montréal, New York/Newark, New York JFK, and Philadelphia. Naples is the first Italian airport to have obtained ACA 5, the highest level of environmental certification in the airport sector. According to a reputable study, the airport also contributes 4.2% to the regional GDP, generating approximately 112,000 jobs. Salerno - Costa d'Amalfi Airport, operational since July 11, 2024, offers a quality network with scheduled destinations managed by major European airlines, in addition to numerous charter and private flights. For the summer of 2025, significant growth is expected, with 20 scheduled routes served by 8 airlines. The airport is currently undergoing significant infrastructure works aimed at creating new general and commercial aviation terminals. The future passenger terminal, which will cover an area of approximately 16,000 square meters, is designed according to the highest environmental standards, with energy efficiency solutions and the use of sustainable materials, in harmony with the territory.

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AIRC Foundation. For 60 years, we have been facing cancer. Together. Since 1965, the AIRC Foundation has continuously supported independent cancer research with the aim of transforming scientific discoveries into effective treatments. Through a rigorous and transparent selection system, AIRC funds the most promising ideas from experienced researchers and young talents at every stage of their careers, thus contributing to a 54% increase in the number of people who have overcome cancer (data from 10 years after cancer diagnosis between 2010 and 2020). Over these six decades, it has allocated approximately 2.5 billion euros to thousands of research projects, currently supporting the work of about 5,400 active researchers in 96 predominantly public institutions in our country. A community made up of 4.5 million supporters, 20,000 volunteers, and 17 regional committees and offices ensures a widespread presence in the territory. An integral part of the AIRC world is IFOM, the Foundation's Institute of Molecular Oncology, an international reference point that attracts scholars from around the world. AIRC also promotes the culture of prevention and the results of research in schools, universities, businesses, and the media. For more information and insights, visit airc.it. Data updated as of January 2025

To find out about all initiatives and be updated in real time

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