



Biography

Professor Vannini studied Biology at the University of Rome "Roma Tre" and undertook his PhD at IRBM "P. Angeletti" (Merck Research Lab), Rome, focussing on the structural characterisation of human histone-deacetylases (HDACs) and quorum-sensing proteins of pathogenic bacteria. He carried out his post-doctoral research, supported by long-term fellowships from Marie-Curie and EMBO, at the Ludwig Maximilian Universität in Munich, Germany. Here, combining X-ray crystallography and cryo-electron microscopy, he elucidated the architecture of

yeast RNA polymerase III, the largest of the three eukaryotic RNA polymerases.

In 2012, Professor Vannini joined the ICR as Team Leader in the Division of Structural Biology. He and his team focused on the structural and functional characterisation of large macromolecular complexes that assemble at RNA polymerase III-transcribed genes in order to understand how they are mechanistically linked to cancer. In 2015 he was elected EMBO Young Investigator, in 2017 was made Reader of the ICR, and in 2019 became Deputy Head of the Division of Structural Biology and Professor of Integrative Structural Biology. Also in 2019, Professor Vannini was appointed as the first Director of the Centre for Structural Biology at the Human Technopole Foundation in Milan.