APPLIED RESEARCH
INFN AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF MILAN JOIN ALLEANZA CONTRO IL CANCRO

The governing council of the Alleanza Contro il Cancro (Alliance Against Cancer), the national oncology network of the Italian Ministry of Health, expressed a unanimously favourable opinion to INFN's and the Foundation of the Polytechnic of Milan's application to join the network as ordinary and associate members respectively. Both the facilities (the Foundation through the Polytechnic) already collaborate with ACC in Health Big Data, through a 10-year project funded with € 55 million by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, coordinated by the Ministry of Health, which involves 51 IRCCS (Italy's nationally significant biomedical institutions) belonging to the oncology, neuroscience, and cardiology networks.

The analysis of big data in health may provide a powerful tool for assessing and managing global and individual health. It will be possible to optimise, at the same time, changes to the health organisation and the integration of increasingly sophisticated clinical and environmental data at an unprecedented resolution level. It will enable early intervention with regards to the presence or predisposition to diseases that could subsequently develop, so as to act at a stage when treatment is simpler, effective, and less costly. In addition, the application of these technologies to primary prevention will impede diseases from manifesting through the adoption of a more suitable lifestyle.