

Rita Cucchiara

Full Professor of Computer Engineering



Rita Cucchiara is Full Professor of Computer Engineering (s.s.d. IINF-05/A "Information Processing Systems") at the Department of Engineering "Enzo Ferrari" of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE), Italy. She is Director of the Interdepartmental Center "Artificial Intelligence Research and Innovation" (AIRI) of UNIMORE. Rita Cucchiara was born in Modena on 03/13/1965. She is married with two adult children.

Academic Curriculum and Education

Rita Cucchiara, after graduating from classical high school, graduated with honors in Electronic Engineering in 1989 from the University of Bologna. In 1989, she was licensed as an engineer and in 1993 received her PhD in Electronic and Computer Engineering, from the University of Bologna. In 1991 she spent a period of study at the University College of London, UK. From 1993 to 1998, she held the position of Researcher at the University of Ferrara in s.s.d. K05/A. From 1998 to 2004, she held the position of Associate Professor at UNIMORE in the field of ING-INF/05. Since 2005 she holds the position of Full Professor. She is also affiliated with the CNR Institute IIT in Pisa for the period 2023-2025.

Governance Activities and Institutional Roles

FOR THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

2024-Today

Collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (MAECI) and Member of the Italy-Canada Working Group for Cooperation and Research.

2021-Today

Collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office of artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

2023-2024

Member of the Coordinating Committee for "the National Strategies on Artificial Intelligence," Department for Digital Transformation of the Prime Minister's Office and co-editor of the "National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence 2024-2026".

2023-2024

Member of the Working Table at the Chamber of Deputies for the "Artificial Intelligence for Parliament" project.

2021

Member of the Working Group on "Artificial Intelligence" coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of University and Research and Ministry of Innovation Technology and Digital Transformation, and co-editor of the Italian Strategic Program in Artificial Intelligence", approved by the Council Ministers in 2021.

2020-2021

Coordinator of the Panel of Experts in "Artificial Intelligence" of the National Research Program PNR 2021-2027 of the Ministry of University and Research.

2020-2021

Member of the G20 panel on "Digital Education" of the Ministry of University and Research.

2020-2021

Member of the "High Level Working group dedicated to Research and Development Issues" for the Italian UNESCO Commission.

2018-2020

Member of the panel of "High Level Experts in Artificial Intelligence" for the definition of the Italian "Artificial Intelligence" Strategy of the Ministry of Industry and Economic Development, later approved in 2020.

FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

2017-2025

Member of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Foundation 'Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) and member of the Strategic Council for the "IIT Strategic Plan 2024-2029".

2025

Coordinator of the International Evaluation Panel 2021-2024 of the Foundation 'Italian Institute of Technology (IIT).

2022-2025

Board member (BoD) of the FAIR (Future AI Research) Foundation funded as a hub of the Next-generation EU program (PNRR PE-AI 2022-26).

2022-2025

Member of the Board of Directors (BoD) of ART-ER Attractiveness Research and Territories of Emilia-Romagna.

2022-2025

Member of the Scientific Advisory Board (Advisory Board) of the Max-Planck "Institute for Intelligent Systems" (<https://is.mpg.de/abouts/scientific-advisory-board>) in Tübingen (Germany), and member of the Triennial Evaluation Panel.

2022-2025

Member of the Scientific Advisory Board (Advisory Board) of the "Computer Vision Center - CVC" (<https://www.cvc.uab.es/goverment-structure/>), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain).

2020-Today

Member of the Board of Directors of ELLIS (European Labs of Learning and Intelligent Systems) and in 2023-24 representative of ELLIS in ADRA (Association of AI Data and Robotics) of the EU in support of the Horizon Europe Work Programme.

2020-Today

Board member of the European Computer Vision Association (ECVA), which coordinates the scientific activities of the European Computer Vision Conference.

2017-Today

Member of the Computer Vision Foundation (CVF) advisory board and IEEE PAMI technical committee.

FOR UNIVERSITY OF MODENA AND REGGIO EMILIA

2021-Today

Director of the Interdepartmental Center "AI Research and Innovation" (AIRI), to which DIEF, DISMI, DEMB and FIM Departments belong, an accredited Center in the High Technology Network of the Emilia-Romagna Region (<https://www.airi.unimore.it/>).

2024-Today

Co-director of the Master's program "Public Management and Innovation" at the Bologna Business School (BBS), in collaboration with UNIBO, UNIFE, and UNIPR, on Public Administration Management and Public Good Creation.

2021-Today

Doctoral coordinator of the UNIMORE office associated with the National Doctorate in "AI for Society" (coordinated by University of Pisa). Member of the Governing Board of the "National Doctorate in Artificial Intelligence".

2020-Today

Director of the UNIMORE Unit of the "European Labs of Learning and Intelligent Systems" (ELLIS), which also includes components from CINECA and the University of Florence.

2020-Today

Delegate for UNIMORE in the "Associazione Big Data" of the Emilia-Romagna Region and member of the Steering Committee.

2018-Today

Member of the Council of the Doctoral School in ICT at UNIMORE.

2018-Today

Member of the Planning Roles Committee (2018-2024) and Strategy Committee (2024-present) of the "Enzo Ferrari" Department of Engineering.

2000-Today

Head of the Almagelab Research Laboratory (aimagelab.ing.unimore.it) of UNIMORE's "Enzo Ferrari" Department of Engineering, which now brings together more than 60 researchers, faculty and students in AI, machine learning, computer vision and multimodal generative AI.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT INSTITUTIONAL ROLES (SELECTION)

2018-2021

Director of CINI-AIIS, the national laboratory of "Artificial Intelligence and Intelligent Systems" of the National Interuniversity Consortium for Informatics, established in 2018 under the aegis of the Department of Information and Security of the Prime Minister's Office, coordinating the activities of 55 universities and more than 1,000 affiliates.

2014-2018

UNIMORE Rector's Delegate for "Industrial Research on the Emilia-Romagna Territory."

2016-2018

Delegate from the Chancellor in the Scientific Council of Democenter-Sipe Foundation.

2015-2018

President of the Italian Association of Computer Vision, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning (CVPL), a national scientific reference association for IAPR (Intern Association for Pattern Recognition).

2015-2017

Director of the 2nd level Master's degree in "Visual Computing and Multimedia Technology" UNIMORE, funded by MIUR.

2018-2021

UNIMORE's delegate in the Audit Committee and in the ARTER (Attractiveness Research and Territory of Emilia-Romagna) Members' Assembly.

2018-2019

Chairman of the MIUR Evaluation Committee for the Space Clust-ER.

2015-2017

Expert member of LEIT Horizon 2020 for the Italian agency APRE.

2015-2016

Member of CUN Working Group representing Area 09 for ANVUR -VQR.

2013-2016

Member of the Scientific Council of PiTER for the support of the Digital Agenda of the Emilia Romagna Region.

2014-2016

Vice-President of the Italian Group of Professors of Computer Engineering (GII), with Proxy for Research.

2015-2018

Director of the Interdepartmental Research Center in ICT SOFTECH-ICT, UNIMORE.

2012-2014

Member of the first ASN committee for H/09, s.s.d. ING-INF/05.

2012-2016

Member of the Emilia-Romagna Table for the Digital Agenda, representing UNIMORE.

2009-2011

Member of the "Investigative Committee on New Governance" for the definition of the new UNIMORE Statute.

2010-2015

Scientific coordinator of the "ICT and Design Platform" of Emilia-Romagna High Technology Network.

2011-2017

Director of the Interdepartmental Center "Softech-ICT" of UNIMORE, accredited to the High Technology Network Emilia-Romagna.

2006-2008

RV Self-Assessment Courses - CRUI ANVUR. Responsible for the Cds of Computer Engineering.

2007-2012

Vice dean of the Modena Faculty of Engineering of UNIMORE.

2001-2007

President of the Center for Incoming Orientation Services (CSOI) for Faculty of Engineering and Faculty Contact Person for Orientation.

2004-2006

Member of the CIVR (Research Assessment) National Working Group for ING-INF/05.

2001-2005

University contact person of the University Computer Certification (ECDL) action under the CampusOne project.

2000-Today

Member of the Council of Teachers for the Ph.

1996-1998

Co-head of the LIVA Research Laboratory (Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence and Vision) at the University of Ferrara.

1996-1997

Member of the University of Ferrara Research Committee M.U.R.S.T. 60% funding for 08 and 09 Committees.

1995-1996

Member of the Ferrara University Commission for the formulation and evaluation of entrance tests for closed-numbered admission, designing and implementing data processing software for dematerialization and automatic correction admission tests.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES (SELECTION)

2021-Today

Member of the Board of Directors of Prometeia spa.

2021-Today

Collaboration with ABI-Training on proposed amendments for the "AI regulation" AI ACT of the EU.

2020-2021

Scientific Advisor to the company Berry AI, South Korea (of Flytech Technology USA Inc.).

2020-2024

Member of the Scientific Committee of Covision Lab SCARL / KgmbH, Brixen.

2018-2020

Member of the Scientific Committee of IREN spa.

Teaching Activities

Rita Cucchiara began her teaching activity at the University of Ferrara in 1993, as the holder of the course in Computing Systems at the bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering. Since 1998 she has been teaching continuously at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in several courses:

- (1998-present) holder of the course on "Computer Architectures" (formerly "Electronic Computers") in the bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering UNIMORE and IEI degree of the Military Academy.
- (1998-2018) holder of the course "Theories and Techniques of Image Processing" in the master's degree in Computer Engineering UNIMORE then renamed since 2004 "Artificial Vision".
- (2019- present) co-teacher of the course in English of "Computer Vision and Cognitive System" first in the master's degree in Computer Engineering and from 2023 in the master's degree in "Artificial Intelligence Engineering" UNIMORE.
- (2019- 2023) is co-teacher of MUNER's "AI for Automotive" course in the Advanced Automotive Electronic Engineering degree program (initially delivered by the University of Bologna and from 2023 by the University of Parma).

In previous years she has lectured for several University Master's programs, and from 2001 to 2003 she was the holder of the "Electronic Computers" course at the Faculty of Engineering in Reggio Emilia.

In A.Y. 2023-2024, she did not do any teaching activities due to taking a 10-month sabbatical year.

Since 1998, she has regularly tutored undergraduate and master's theses in topics concerning Electronic Computer Architecture, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Vision and Machine Learning, as well as theses developed through internships in companies.

She has mentored more than 30 Research Fellows, with fellowships provided at the Department of Engineering "Enzo Ferrari" and at the AIRI Center and funded by commissioned research or competitive research.

Since 1998, she has mentored more than 50 PhD students from both UNIMORE's ICT doctoral school and the National PhD program in "Artificial Intelligence for Society" based in Modena (with coordinating office in Pisa), including 20 PhD students since 2018.

She is currently Co-Tutor of Doctoral Students from the University of Amsterdam and CVC Barcelona.

She has been the holder of several courses in Level II Masters and Postgraduate courses at UNIMORE, and several courses in National and International Doctoral schools concerning Computer Vision, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. In 2025 she is teaching in the Master of Public Management and Innovation at BBS to which UNIMORE belongs.

Research Activities

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Rita Cucchiara has more than 30 years of scientific research experience in artificial intelligence, with focus on Pattern Recognition, Artificial Vision, Machine/Deep Learning, Multimodal Visual-Language Generation, time series analysis, and multimodal artificial intelligence systems

She has done various research in video analysis for human behavior understanding in visual data (Human Behavior Understanding), biometrics and video surveillance, coordinating several scientific projects such as

- the "BESAFE" NATO project, "Science for Peace" program Italy-Israel coordinator (2007-09),
- The project "THIS" (2009-11, European coordinator),
- the PRIN-MUR project "PREVUE" (2019-21) coordinator
- the PRIN-MIUR Project "FreeSurf" (2007-08) national coordinator.

In the video-surveillance theme, she coordinates UNIMORE units in national and international projects dealing with infrastructure security: EU INSECTT (2020-23), EU Arrowed-Tool (2019-21), and collaborates in the PNRR EcoSistER (2022-25)

Recently, she carried out research on multimodal generative AI, Deep Learning image-to-text and information retrieval, and Trustworthy AI, coordinating local UNIMORE units in several European and national projects such as:

- HUMAN-E-AI, (Horizon2020, 2020-23, UNIMORE LTP CINI unit referent),
- PERSEO (EU Marie-Curie MCS 2021-23),
- AIXCH (AI in Cultural Heritage; Italy-Israel Embassy Funding 2021-22),
- ELSA (Horizon Europe 2022-24 on Secure AI),
- ELIAS (Horizon Europe 2023-26 on AI sustainability for individuals),
- ELLIOT (Horizon Europe 2025-28 on Multimodal Language Model).

Since 2025 she has been a contact person for UNIMORE in the new [IT4LIA project](#) coordinated by CINECA, one of the 7 European AI Factories of the EuroHPC.

In the past, she has done research in medical imaging and AI for the health world (since 2003-2005 with Burnham Institute S. Diego). In this field, with focus on Cognitive Robotics for Medicine she coordinates the UNIMORE Unit in the project

- PNRR FIT4MedRob (2022-2025).

Conducted research in Artificial Vision and AI in automotive (2003-2008) Collaboration with S. Diego University, Collaboration EU Pristine project, Collaboration with several Automotive companies including.

- Responsible for the joint UNIMORE-FERRARI RedVision lab (2018-2020).

She has done research in artificial intelligence for cultural heritage for many years, coordinating the UNIMORE Unit in the

- PON IDEHA (2018-2020) and.
- PON "Educating City" (2014-2016)
- "AI for Digital Humanitas" (2018-2021) of the Modena Foundation,

contributing to the creation of the DHMORE International Center; currently collaborating and coordinating research units in the area of Document Analysis for historical documents in the project

- PNRR ITSERR (2022-25).

She collaborates for research activities and co-authorship of scientific papers with researchers from various international Centers such as, in 2025, University of Amsterdam, European ELLIS

Centers, Stanford-Nvidia Lab USA, University of Central Florida, University of Sydney, and FAIR research centers of Facebook-Meta and Amazon Berlin and London.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH AND TECH TRANSFER

Conducts and coordinates industrial research activities including through the AIRI Center with numerous national and international industries and companies.

From 2020 include, among others, recent projects commissioned with

- TETRAPAK (AI for human ergonomics),
- YOOX YNAP (AI for virtual try-on in Fashion);
- MATICAD (generative networks for recognition of living spaces),
- DIGITAL DESIGN (generative design networks in ceramics),
- FERRARI (Computer vision for Human in Car, with joint laboratory "RedVision")
- IMA (machine Learning for predictive analytics),
- FLORIM (anomaly detection in industry),
- PROMETEIA (financial data analysis and 3D vehicle reconstruction in the generative field),
- DATALOGIC (action analysis for automated checkout control),
- E80 (generative AI for 3D understanding of scenes in automated warehouses)

She also has active collaboration with NVIDIA (NVIDIA AI Technical Center) since 2020 at UNIMORE.

She co-founded several university start-ups, including currently GoatAI srl university start-up of UNIMORE 2020-2025)

In these areas of research, and especially, for artificial intelligence and its ethical, social and economic impact, she regularly carries out scientific dissemination action in collaboration with industrial associations (Confindustria Nazionale, Confindustria Emilia, Unindustria Reggio Emilia, LegaCoop and others) and trade associations throughout Italy, and with various city, national and European public bodies, as shown in the list of recent seminars attached here.

SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION

She has been continuously organizing international workshops for many years, collaborating with researchers from many international (University of San Diego, University of Sydney, University of Central Florida, Stanford...) and European research institutions, especially from the ELLIS network and working with high-tech companies such as NVIDIA, Facebook-Meta and Amazon.

She has been and is a conspicuous scientific organizer at the most prestigious international conferences in AI. These include the roles of:

- General Chair: IWCV 2018 Modena, Italy, ICPR 2020 Milan, Italy, ACM MM 2020, Seattle USA, ECCV 2022 Tel Aviv, Israel. ACM MM 2023 Ottawa, Canada, CVPR 2024 Seattle USA.
- Program Chair: ICCV 2017 Venice, ECAI 2020 Santiago de Compostela
- Area Chair: NIPS 2018, NIPS 2019, NeurIPS 2020, NeurIPS 2021, USA, ICCV 2019, Seoul S. Korea, CVPR 2020, Seattle USA, CVPR 2025 Nashville, USA

She was Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions of Multimedia until 2018. She is currently Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine intelligence, the most authoritative international scientific journal in Computer Vision, and one of the most authoritative in AI in the world according to Scimago.

In 2023-2024 she was special-issue Editor of three issues on "Trustworthy AI" in the most famous magazine in Computer Science "IEEE Computer."

BIBLIOMETRIC NOTES

The aimagelab.ing.unimore.it website lists collaborations, research and scientific publications, many of which contributed excellent grades to UNIMORE's VQR. She published as co-author more than 600 international scientific papers:

Indicators:

- H-index=71 and more than 31,000 citations according to Google Scholar March 2025

(<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=OM3sZEoAAAAJ>)

- H-index 53 and more than 17,000 citations according to Scopus March 2025

(<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=7006870483>)

- since several years included in the top 2% ranking of the world's best researchers according to the list coordinated by Stanford.

Keynote, Awards and Recognition Rita Cucchiara has been invited as a speaker and keynote speaker in numerous international and national congresses, round tables, both of scientific and public institutions and private companies. In particular in the A.Y. 2023-2024 she took 10 months of sabbatical, contributing to the dissemination of activities at UNIMORE in Italy and internationally

INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTES AND INVITED TALKS (2023-2024)

- "Computer Vision for a Better Society" Invited speech ITA-USA Cooperation USA Embassy, Jan. 28, 2023
- "From visual to multimodal understanding" Italy-Germany Webinar CNR and Embassy, Apr. 19, 2023
- "Ideas for vision-based personalized human-robot interaction" ELLIS Computer Vision Ws, Tubing, 24 Mag. 2023
- "Secure, Sustainable and Trusted Vision AI " Workshop "Trusted AI - the Future of Creating Ethical and Responsible AI systems," EU Community NoE, Brussels, Sept. 13, 2023
- "What if labels are too few, or too many?" ELLIS Day University of Amsterdam 24 Nov. 2023
- "Robotics, AI and Ethics Detecting fakes and hallucinations for responsible generative AI" Embassy of Italy London, 28 Nov. 2023
- "Open Issues on Human Tracking: from 2D to 3D inferences" Keynote WCVW Winter Conf on Applications of Computer Vision Waikoloa Ws on Surveillance, Hawaii USA, 6 Jan. 2024
- "Transformers and self-supervised training for bank transactional data" invited Speech at AI4Fintech, Amsterdam, Mar. 22, 2024
- "On the trustworthiness of diffusion models" Invited Speech Computer Vision Ws, Modena, 24 Mag. 2024

- "Do We Want (Better) Deep Fakes?" Keynote at the Workshop and Challenge on Deep Fake Analysis and Detection, CVPR, Seattle USA, Jun. 17, 2024
- "Embodied navigation by visual and language interaction" Keynote at the Workshop of Robot Visual Perception in Human Crowded Environments, CVPR Seattle, 18 Jun. 2024
- "Learning, Unlearning, Relearning?" Invited Speech Intern. Workshop of Computer Vision, CVF Rome, 26 Jun. 2024
- "Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Economic Perspectives" Keynote at "European Leaders Programme" Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Milan, 11 Jul. 2024
- "Learning, Unlearning, and Relearning" Invited Speech Ellis Phd Doctorate Symposium, Paris F, 28 Ago. 2024

NATIONAL KEYNOTES AND INVITED TALKS (2023-2024)

- "Artificial intelligence Today and tomorrow challenges" Invited Report National Academy of Arts, Letters and Sciences, Modena - 16 Feb, 2023
- "AI for Health: Today and tomorrow challenges" School Phd in Program in Clinical and Experimental Medicine, Neuroscience, Molecular and Regenerative Medicine, UNIMORE Modena Feb. 29, 2023
- "Artificial Intelligence" Invited Report to the Conference of Science and Space Attachés 2023 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Padua, Mar. 7, 2023
- "Innovation and Frontiers of AI" Training School "Illumina Futuro" Milan Apr. 1, 2023
- "Artificial Intelligence Today" Invited Report to the Chamber of Deputies, Rome, Apr. 18, 2023
- "AI for Future Italy" Invited Report to Confindustria Salerno Conference, Salerno, May 20, 2023
- "Artificial Intelligence and Metaverse" Roundtable in the Expo Conference "ComoLake2023 - Next Generation Innovations" AGID Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Como, 12 Sep. 2023
- "Challenges in Computer Vision, NLP and Generative AI" PhdSchool on "AI and Society" Keynote Summer School 2023 La Maddalena, Italy 6 Jun. 2023
- "From image to text and return: Generative AI" Keynote Summer school in XR&AI Matera, 12 Jul. 2023
- "AI in Medicine" Invited Report Research Day Dept. Chemomo, UNIMORE, Modena, Sept. 24, 2023
- "AI and AI ACT" Invited Report CRIT Vignola, Oct. 2023
- "Generative AI" Talk TEDx Cremona, Nov. 17, 2023
- "Unmanned Combat Aircraft, Artificial Intelligence And The Future Of Defense" IAI Invited Report, Ministry of Defense, Rome, 21 Nov. 2023
- "Artificial Intelligence Today: Human and Digital Cooperation as the Foundation of the New AI-Based Economy" Keynote, Hera, Bologna Dec. 18, 2023
- "On generative artificial intelligence" Invited paper to Artificial Intelligence and Wisdom of the Heart, Reggio Emilia, Jan. 14. 2024
- "Generative artificial intelligence: opportunities in economic and social challenges" Invited Speech by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, Rome, Jan 19, 2024
- "Anthropocentric Artificial Intelligence Systems for Public Institutions" Invited Report at the Chamber Deputies, Rome, 16 Feb 2024
- "Invited reports- School of Further Education of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Rome Mar. 6, 2024

- "Artificial intelligence and opportunities for industries" Invited Report Unindustria Reggio Emilia, Apr. 6, 2024
- "Intelligence is not just artificial" Keynote Rotary Young program, Punta Ala, Apr. 2024
- "Employer guarantee positions to the test of artificial intelligence" Invited introductory paper, Marco Biagi Foundation, Modena, Apr. 19, 2024
- "AI Act," "Artificial Intelligence for Big Tech" Invitation for Two Speakers in Panel Discussion Trento Festival Economics, Sole 24 ore 26 Mag, 2024
- "Anthropocentric Artificial Intelligence Systems for Public Institutions" Invited Report to the Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for PA ITAL-IA, Naples, 28 Mag. 2024
- "The power of Diffusion Models" Invited Report University of Turin, OCR, Turin, Jun 2024
- "The Error and The Artifice" Lectio Magistralis, FANO, 26 Jun. 2024
- "Artificial intelligence: perspectives for engineering and architecture" Keynote, OICE Conv., Rome, Jul. 1. 2024
- "Data and artificial intelligence: application perspectives for university administrations" Invited paper to CODAU Annual Conference Florence Sept. 20, 2024
- "The AI ACT: The European Approach to AI Regulation" in Artificial Intelligence and Law University of Bologna, Oct. 8, 2024
- "The University in the Time of Gen AI" or for 100 Years of Computer Science at UNIBA Oct. 24, 2024
- "AI is Acting in Subject" Keynote School of Phd Digital Learning Reggio Emilia Nov. 21, 2024
- "What The Machine Thinks" Keynote ANICREF Conference Headache Neurology and Innovation, Genoa Nov. 29, 2024

AWARDS and RECOGNITIONS

She received several national and international honors and awards including:

- 2016 Award for Winning Proposal (Aimagelab-UNIMORE), selected as one of 15 European partner laboratories of the Facebook Artificial Intelligence Research (FAIR Lab).
- 2018 IAPR "Maria Petrou" Award "the outstanding work in pattern recognition and video surveillance" and Fellowship of IAPR in 2006.
- 2019 UNICEF Italy "Golden Spider" Award for "Scientific Research."
- 2019 Fellowship of ELLIS European Labs of Learning and Intelligent System Network.
- 2022 Golden Cherry Award from the Vignola Foundation.
- 2022 Elected Ordinary Member of the National Academy of Arts, Letters and Sciences of Modena.
- 2024 Elected Member of the National Academy of Engineering and Technology ItaTec.

Activities of Third Mission

Rita Cucchiara has always carried out continuous and conspicuous third mission activities, both as technology transfer to the territory, as described by the third-party research projects in the previous section, and as public engagement and scientific dissemination, as well as activities aimed at the sustainability of the territory's social system.

In addition to industrial research projects, she often contributed as a mentor or scientific advisor to industrial research and collaborative activities with agencies and trade associations, with several speeches each year at Confindustria Emilia-Romagna, Confindustria Emilia and Unindustria Reggio Emilia.

Since 2011 she has been actively collaborating with the Emilia-Romagna Region and the Department Productive Activities, with initiatives both in Italy (R2B, Art-ER Initiatives, Clust-ER, Big Data Association, IFAB) and abroad (several Missions for the Emilia-Romagna Region, in Brussels, Canada and Dubai and initiatives for EXPO 2020).

Rita Cucchiara has done and does scientific dissemination work, particularly - but not only - on artificial intelligence, its applications and digital transformation, participating in many initiatives of the Municipality of Modena and (e.g., Smart City festival,) the Prime Minister's Office, CRUI and CODAU as well as companies on the above topics.

In 2025, she was invited as a Keynote by the Ministry of Education and Merit in the "Next Generation AI" Teacher Training Day.

Also in 2025, she was invited as a Keynote to the Opening Day of the AGID Academy of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with a talk on the topic "Intelligent Agents for Document Analysis in Public Administration).

Other highlights include participations in TedX (Modena, Ortigia, Cremona), broadcasting activities at RAI during the Covid Pandemic (RAI "I Maestri" editions), and various initiatives with high schools in Modena, Milan, Lecce.

Rita Cucchiara collaborates on technology issues with major national newspapers (Ansa, Corriere della Sera, Repubblica, Sole 24 Ore, La Stampa) and national television channels (SkyTg24, Rai2, Rai3).

Modena, March 13, 2025

