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2026 Plenary Speakers



Prof. Federico Capasso

Director of Graduate Studies (spring), Applied Physics, Harvard University



Prof. Dirk R. Englund

Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT

Dirk Englund leads the Quantum Photonics and AI (QP&AI) group at MIT, where his research spans optoelectronic systems, quantum information science, and artificial intelligence. He is a principal investigator in both the Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE) and the Microsystems Technology Laboratories (MTL).

Englund earned his BS in Physics from Caltech, followed by a Fulbright year at TU Eindhoven, and completed his MS and PhD at Stanford University. After a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard, he launched his academic career at Columbia University before joining MIT in 2013.

His honors include the Presidential Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE), Sloan Fellowship, DARPA Young Faculty Award, and the Optica Adolph Lomb Medal. He is a Fellow of Optica and IEEE, a Web of Science Highly Cited Researcher, and recipient of an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. He is also a co-founder and scientific advisor to several technology companies.





Dr. Franco Nori

*Team Director at the Quantum Computing Center, RIKEN, Japan
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

Franco Nori is a Team Director at the Quantum Computing Center, RIKEN, Japan. Until 2025, he was a Chief Scientist at RIKEN. He also holds a concurrent position at the University of Michigan. His research group has done pioneering interdisciplinary studies at the interface between quantum optics, quantum information processing, superconducting quantum circuitry for quantum computing, photonics, atomic physics, open quantum systems, opto-mechanics, nanoscience, and condensed matter physics.

Nori completed his MS and PhD at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After a postdoctoral position at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at UCSB, he joined the faculty of the University of Michigan, and then in 2002, a concurrent position at RIKEN.

He has been listed by the Web of Science as a “Highly Cited Researcher” (less than 0.1% of scientists are selected) in Physics for the past eight consecutive years.

He is an Elected Fellow of the APS, IoP, AAAS, and Optica. He received the 2014 Prize for Research in Physics, from the Matsuo Foundation, Japan; and the 2013 Prize for Science, by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan. Also, an “Excellence in Research Award” and an “Excellence in Education Award” from the University of Michigan. He is an Elected Member of the Academia Europaea, the Latin American Academy of Sciences, and a Foreign Member of the Swedish Royal Society of Arts and Sciences, in Gothenburg, Sweden. He won the 2023 W.E. Lamb Medal, and the 2024 Charles H. Townes Medal; both for fundamental contributions to research on Quantum Optics, Quantum Electronics, and Quantum Information. In 2024, he received a Research Honorary Doctorate in Physics, from the University of Messina, Italy.



Prof. Nathalie Picqué

Max Born Institute, Germany