

Hello NanoCom friends,

Greetings from 36,000 feet as I fly from Atlanta to Abu Dhabi!
I'm truly sorry I cannot be there with you right now.

First, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the organizers—Maurizio, Chun Tung, Anna, Laura, and Massimiliano—for inviting me to celebrate the 10th anniversary of NanoCom. It means so much to me!

Just last month, I was deeply touched by an invitation from the ACM MOBICOM conference organizers, who remembered me as one of the founders and invited me to speak at their 30th anniversary in a couple of weeks. This recent invitation from NanoCom is equally meaningful, especially in a research world that can sometimes feel cutthroat, where everyone wants to be recognized as a pioneer. It's reassuring to know that the contributions of past heroes won't be forgotten, and this recognition helps honor the legacy for future generations.

For those curious about how this conference came to be, let's take a trip back to 2006.

It is not every day you wake up and decide to start a new research field or conference! That year, four of my PhD students—Tommaso Melodia, Dario Pompili, Can Vuran, and Cagri Gungor—were on the job market in the USA.

They shared that universities were creating nanotechnology centers and seeking experts in the field. Thankfully, they all found positions at well-established universities and have since become incredibly successful Full Professors.

Their experiences reminded me of my own time at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in the early '70s, when the era of microchip technology began. I've seen how microtechnology has shaped our world over the past 50+ years, and it sparked my interest in nanotechnology. I realized that while much of the focus was on nanomaterials and hardware, I wondered how these nanodevices would communicate once fully developed.

That year, I also had the pleasure of hosting two visiting researchers, Fernando Brunetti from Madrid and Cristina Blazquez from Barcelona. Sadly, we lost Cristina a couple of years ago—she was a beautiful soul who left us far too soon. Last night, as I watched El Clásico, I fondly remembered both Fernando and Cristina, celebrating Barça's victory in their honor.

Upon my return to my lab at Georgia Tech, I invited Fernando and Cristina to collaborate on nanodevices and their communications. I was also visiting UPC in Barcelona and POLIMI in Italy almost every summer. In 2007, I met Massimiliano during one of my talks at POLIMI, and in 2008, I met Josep at UPC. I invited them to join me at Georgia Tech for their PhDs, and they accepted. Massimiliano focused on molecular communication, while Josep delved into nanonetworks and eventually TeraHertz band communications. In 2008, with my long-time friend Prof. Josep Pareta at UPC, we established the NanoNetworking Center (N3Cat) in Barcelona. Now, Sergi Abadal, who was once a visiting researcher in my lab, leads N3Cat to new heights.

We kicked off our first workshop in Barcelona in 2008, and each year brought more attendees, including Massimo, Josep, Chung, Anna, Ilangko, Sasi, and many others. Our group at Georgia Tech grew to over 25 people, collaborating with professors from various departments and their PhD students and postdocs. We secured a significant NSF grant called MONACO, where we explored bacteria communication from 2011 to 2016.

In 2010, Elsevier, for whom I had started three journals, asked me to launch a new journal in this emerging area, which I named NANOCOMNET. I led the journal until 2016, passing it on to Josep and Massimo as the new editors-in-chief.

In 2013, drawing from my experience with conferences like ACM MOBICOM and IEEE BlackSeaCom, I felt it was time to start a conference focused on this topic. Thus, NANOCOM was

born. We launched our inaugural ACM NANOCOM in Atlanta in 2014 with just a handful of attendees—around 20—but it was a success nonetheless!

Looking back, it is easy to talk about these events, but the journey was not without its challenges. Some individuals tried to hinder our progress, but perhaps they reflect on that now. Regardless, this should inspire young researchers to persevere when starting something new.

I am so happy to see that this year's program, just like in the past, looks incredibly strong, interesting, and promising! It is truly exciting to witness how well-established the research community in this field has become.

If I may offer a humble suggestion for the future, it would be to encourage more interdisciplinary researchers to join us, as this field thrives on collaboration across different areas of expertise.

As I wrap up my thoughts, I want to express how proud I am of how far NanoCom has come in just 10 years. It has truly become one of the top conferences, publishing impactful papers that shape our research landscape. A heartfelt congratulations goes out to the generations that followed me, especially Massimo, Josep, and others who have helped elevate NanoCom to this level. Please continue the fantastic work!

I hope to be around for the 20th anniversary, but if not, I trust my name will be remembered in the history of NanoCom.

Wishing you all an enjoyable and productive 10th NanoCom.
Enjoy the beautiful city of Rome!

Here is to many more years of success. Long live NanoCom,
and cheers from Abu Dhabi!