

Franco Cacialli received his “Laurea” degree (cum Laude) and PhD in Electronic Engineering from the University of Pisa, and after post-doctoral work at Cambridge (Department of Physics – 1994-1996) has been a Royal Society University Research Fellow in the period 1996-2004, first at Cambridge until 2001, then at University College London (UCL), where he joined the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the London Centre for Nanotechnology (LCN, www.london-nano.ucl.ac.uk).

Appointed as Lecturer in Physics in 2001, promoted to Reader in 2003, and then Professor of Physics in 2005, Franco developed his research interests on the physics and application of advanced functional materials to light-emitting and photovoltaic diodes, as well as to field-effect transistors. Emphasis was placed on the properties of the electrode-semiconductors interface, as an aspect of fundamental importance in virtually all device applications. Research interests also included supramolecular architectures for the control and tailoring of intermolecular interactions, and thus of organic semiconductors (OS) photophysics. Strong interests also included high-resolution nanolithography by means of the scanning near-field optical microscope (SNOM) or the scanning thermal microscope (SThM). Alongside collaborators Franco and his group have developed the science and technology of near-infrared (NIR) organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs), especially those based on heavy-metal-free, non-toxic and sustainable materials (*Adv. Funct. Mater.* 29, 1807623, 2019). Alongside collaborators they have also developed tattooable OLEDs (*Adv. Electron. Mater.* 21, 2001145, 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1002/aelm.202001145>) which have elicited significant media coverage.

Franco Cacialli was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (FinstP, 2001), and of the American Physical Society (2009), and was a recipient of a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award (2015-2019). He also served as founding co-director of the London Institute for Advanced Light Technologies (<http://london-light.org>) in the period 2019-2022, before taking up his new position at the Free University of Bolzano.