



THE UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
RESEARCH, INNOVATION  
& DEVELOPMENT TRUST

**RIDT Newsletter**  
December 2025

## **Tribute to Professor Alex Felice**

The RIDT pays its respects to Prof. Alex Felice, a great supporter and friend who passed away in November. He was widely known as a devoted scientist, pioneering researcher, curious mind, and free thinker, with a strong belief in humanity and the young generation, many of whom he mentored and guided.

Prof. Felice was a pioneer in bringing science to the public and encouraging collaboration among scientists. He was a co-founder and first President of the Malta Chamber of Scientists (1992). He also helped establish the National Alliance for Rare Diseases Malta and the Euro Biobank. In 2012, he co-created the "Science in the City" festival with Dr Edward Duca and Wilfred Kenely, which is now an annual meeting point for scientists, artists, and the public. He authored numerous scientific publications, primarily focusing on blood and its disorders.

Prof. Felice was particularly supportive of the RIDT's work. He strongly believed in community support for university research, particularly after having studied and practiced in the USA, where such a culture is strong. Along with his wife, Joanna, he frequently attended our events, providing valuable ideas, leads, and contacts, while encouraging outreach programmes that celebrated research. The RIDT is indebted to him for his integrity, his continued support and unwavering commitment to the scientific community.



# ALIVE Charity Foundation surpasses 1 Million euro for Cancer Research

The **ALIVE Charity Foundation** held its Awards Night on Saturday 22 November 2025 at Ta' Betta Wine Estates, bringing together past and present cyclists, supporters, and partners to celebrate another successful year of fundraising for cancer research. Awards were presented to long-time partners and the main sponsors of the 2025 Cycling Challenge.

During the event, ALIVE announced that it has now reached €1.1 million in funds donated to cancer research at the University of Malta through RIDT — exceeding the Foundation's original €1 million target set in 2013. This year's ALIVE contribution to cancer research reached the record sum of €180,000.



[Click to read more](#)

## Celebrating Archaeology and Philanthropy

The Research, Innovation and Development Trust (RIDT) was honoured to host a truly distinguished evening on **Saturday, 31 May 2025**, within the magnificent surroundings of the Verdala Palace. Held under the esteemed patronage of **Her Excellency, the President of Malta, Dr Miriam Spiteri Debono**, this special event brought together music, leading minds in archaeology to share their profound research, and exquisite local food and wines.

The evening, hosted by **RIDT CEO Wilfred Kenely** opened with a speech by the President of Malta. This was followed by **Karl Fiorini's 3rd Piano Sonata**, exquisitely performed by **Christine Zerafa**.

The evening ensued through the captivating presentations from three eminent scholars, **Professor Nick Vella, Professor Eleanor Scerri** and **Professor Cyprian Broodbank**, each shedding light on fascinating aspects of the discoveries at the Latnija Cave within the context of human history and development.

The evening concluded with a beautiful reception celebrating Maltese culinary delights and wine. This event was made possible thanks to **Frendo Advisory, the National Food Agency** within **The Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries, Db Group, Meridiana Wines, The Catering Centre** and **the Grand Hotel Excelsior**.

[Click to read more](#)

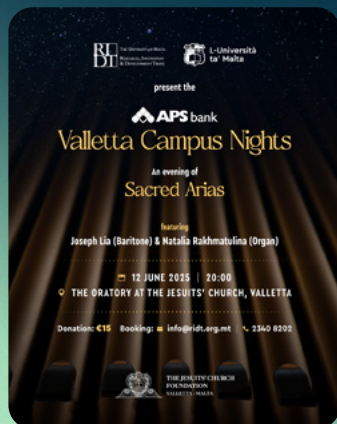
*Photos by Joseph Galea*





# The APS Valletta Campus Nights

This year, RIDT embarked on a series of three summer events with the intention of bringing together the love for the arts and the passion for research. The evenings were very diverse and helped to create awareness on the work of researchers at the University of Malta. **The APS Valletta Campus Nights 2025** were held in June, July and August 2025 and consisted of Sacred Arias, Jazz Anecdotes (Opening of the Malta Jazz Festival) and Tango. Plans are already underway for the 2026 edition.



## Europa Donna Malta donates more funds for breast cancer research

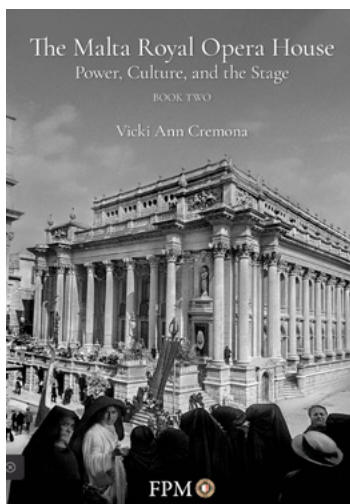
The annual **Hilda Memorial Lecture** organised by **Europa Donna Malta**, was once again held at the University of Malta Valletta Campus in collaboration with RIDT. This year's theme was "Breast Cancer Recurrence" and included a list of esteemed experts in the field of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment, as well as researchers and personal experiences by survivors. Once again, Europa Donna Malta renewed their support towards Breast Cancer research with another generous donation to RIDT.



## The Royal Opera House - a new publication supported by the RIDT

On Tuesday 11 November 2025, **The Farsons Foundation** hosted an exquisite event to mark the official publication of **The Malta Royal Opera House – Power, Culture and the Stage**. This publication, in two volumes, is the culmination of years of research by Prof Vicki Ann Cremona. Photography is by **Daniel Cilia**.

RIDT is proud to be part of this research project by enabling the funding through **The Farsons Foundation**. This project is supported by the **University Of Malta** while **Kite Group** and **Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti** are the publishers.



[Click to read more](#)



## Harmony Of Hope – Classic Rock Edition

This year's edition of **Harmony of Hope** had the Class Rock Theme. This fund raising event for Cancer Research at the University of Malta is the brainchild of Prof Chris Scerri, Debbie Scerri and Mark Spiteri Lucas.

This year's singers were Aidan Drakard, Cherylis Camilleri, Daryl Ebejer, Debbie Scerri, Gloriana Arpa Belli, Ivan Spiteri Lucas, Jolene Samhan, Kersten Graham, Kevin Paul Calleja, Krista Spiteri Lucas, Laura Bruno, Lello Ebejer, Mark Tonna, Matthew James Borg, Moira Stafrace, Michela Scicluna, Nicole Vella, Priscilla Psaila, Rachel Grech, Thea Aquilina and Tiziana Calleja accompanied by the Spiteri Lucas Band.

**Harmony of Hope – Classic Rock Edition** was supported by the **Cancer Research and Innovation Hub (Malta)**, **MedTech** and the **University of Malta**.





## LIDL Malta supports skin cancer research

In their efforts to create awareness on the dangers of exposing the skin to the strong summer sun, Lidl Malta, in conjunction with Cien – Sun Protection products, took the initiative of organising a summer campaign which involved a number of Maltese influencers. At the end of the campaign Lidl Malta donated €3,639 to RIDT to support Research in Skin Cancer at the University of Malta.



## Central Bank of Malta renews commitment

The **Central Bank of Malta**, the **University of Malta**, and the **University Research, Innovation and Development Trust** signed a **Studies Support Collaboration Agreement** aimed at enhancing postgraduate education and research in economics, banking, finance, insurance, and public policy.



[Click to read more](#)



## Elton Barry Ph.D. Scholarship in Cancer Research

In April 2025, the RIDT, in collaboration with the **University of Malta Doctoral School**, announced the **Elton Barry Ph.D. Scholarship in Cancer Research**. This scholarship, funded through the constant support of the **ALIVE Charity Foundation** and honours Mr Elton Barry, one of the founders of the cycling charity who is still very active in each challenge.

## Pink October 2025

This year's Pink October Campaign in support of Breast Cancer Research at the University of Malta featured donations with a wide range of initiatives. RIDT is grateful to **Sarah Bajada**, **So City Hotel** and **Seifert Systems Malta** for their generosity and for supporting research.

**RIDT** The University of Malta  
Research, Innovation & Development Trust

**EMPOWERING  
LIVES THROUGH  
RESEARCH**

Please support breast cancer research at the  
**University of Malta** this **Pink October**.

Contact **So City Hotel** staff to find out more or  
visit [www.ridt.org.mt](http://www.ridt.org.mt)

**SO  
CITY  
HOTEL**





## Christmas Celebration Concert 2025

The annual **RIDT Christmas Celebration Concert 2025** was held on the 13 December 2025 at the Basilica of St Dominic, Valletta. This is RIDT's way of thanking all supporters who made a big difference to research in Malta through their generous donations. This year guests were entertained by the inimitable Gozitan sisters, **The New Victorians**.

Following the concert, guests were offered mulled wine and mince pies at **the Black Friar Museum**.



[Click to read more](#)



*Photos by Joseph Galea*

RIDT would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who have supported research at the University of Malta throughout 2025. A special thank you goes to all the researchers who continue to inspire us to dream big! We hope you will enjoy the Christmas Celebrations and may the New Year bring you joy and health.