



## Francesco Sette

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### ● ABOUT MYSELF

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University education in physics (doctoral graduation in 1982 at the University of Rome, La Sapienza) with principal interest in condensed-matter physics.

FS scientific interest and training is on the study of the fundamental properties of condensed matter and on their experimental determination. Aiming to relate material behavior to the material atomic structure and dynamics, and to its chemical bonding, using synchrotron X-rays he carries out experimental studies on materials as semiconductors, transition metal oxides and highly correlated systems, as well on states of matter as surfaces, interfaces, molecular systems, and liquids. These studies, measuring local electronic and magnetic properties with X-ray scattering and spectroscopy techniques, investigate the connection among local interatomic structures and phenomena as magnetism, superconductivity, giant magneto-resistance, phase transformations, etc. in the considered material. To implement an innovative research programme, FS has engaged himself in the development of new and first-of-a-kind synchrotron based techniques enabling breakthrough investigations. His principal scientific contributions are in the determination of the orbital and spin parts of magnetic moments of a specific atomic species in magnetic materials, and the measurement and identification of structural relaxation effects of hyper-sound propagation in disordered materials and liquids.

Since 2001, becoming Director of Research first and then Director General of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), his interest and career activities progressively turned towards science programmes development, implementation and management.

FS is considered a pioneer in synchrotron radiation research and technology, an area to which he has devoted the whole of his professional career. With an activity of more than 35 years in the field, he has distinguished himself as:

- 1) An experimental scientist (1980-2000), for his scientific contributions in condensed matter physics, and for technical developments in synchrotron radiation instrumentation and techniques.
- 2) A science director, manager and executive officer (2001-2024), in leading the ESRF during the last two decades, and conceiving and implementing its ambitious Upgrade Programme, which has totally renewed the facility after 30 years from his initial conception and delivery.

In line with the ESRF mission to serve the most demanding synchrotron user community from the Member Countries and all over the world, his leadership has strongly contributed to further strengthen Europe pioneer position and world reference in synchrotron science, and making the ESRF today the role model for every existing and planned synchrotron laboratory.

FS is presently ESRF Senior Scientist, and author of more than 200 publications in refereed scientific journals, among which more than 60 on high impact journals (Physical Review Letters, Nature, Science).