On the 100th anniversary of Primo Levi’s birth – and the 150th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev’s Periodic Table – it is fitting to explore the relation of fiction and language to molecules. Primo Levi, a chemist, writer, survivor of Auschwitz, said that he wrote because he was a chemist and that “stitching together molecules” taught him to “stitch together words and ideas.” This symposium is dedicated to remembering Primo Levi, his life, his resilience, his talents, and the visionary example he set of “setting foot on the bridges which unite (or should unite) scientific and literary cultures.”

Speakers:
Professor Andrew Viterbi
Professor Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini
Professor Brian Keating
Dr. Luca Legnani

Discussant: Dean Cristina Della Coletta, Chancellor's Associates Chair in Italian Literature