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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 14, 2014

**The ICCC presents a locally produced documentary along with a panel discussion highlighting the work of Italian Researchers and Innovators in Texas**

**WHAT:** Continuing their effort of highlighting the contributions of the Italian community to the economic, social and cultural foundation of Texas, the *Italian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC)* will host a two hour event focused on the work of Italian researchers and innovators in the Lone Star State. The event will serve as the premiere of a locally produced documentary titled ***“Texan Italian Innovation”***. This 25 minute media piece is the latest installment on the *“Texan Italian Stories”*, a five episode short documentary series created by ITAL, a media project focused on Texan Italian culture that is being conducted by students and faculty members from the University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University in San Marcos. The short documentary *“Texan Italian Innovation”*, hosted by Austin Native Italian-American actor and producer, Romina Olson, paints a comprehensive picture of the state of research and innovation for the Italian community in Texas. The piece highlights the work of diverse innovators from a wide range of fields, from biomedicine, to modern languages to music. The documentary projection will be followed by a panel discussion lead by Texan Italian researcher Sergio Codognotto, featuring some of the different researchers highlighted in the movie. The goal of the evening is to provide an opportunity for the Italian community in Texas to gather and share other aspects about Italian culture that are usually not highlighted in typical Italian related cultural events. Further, ITAL and the ICCC hope that the evening could provide a good platform for networking for researchers and innovators from different fields, backgrounds and nationalities. The event will be carried out in English, and will be opened to the Houston and Texas community at large, including Italians, Italian-Americans, and those non Italians who are interested in Italian related topics and activities. The event will be followed by a complimentary reception hosted by **Corradi USA** and **Nice Group USA** at *The Shade Shop*, 4122 Richmond Avenue, Houston, TX 77027.

ITAL is a media project that utilizes academic research to develop sustainable models of geo-ethnic media. The *“Texan Italian stories”* is an independent documentary series funded by community members which highlights the contributions of Italians and Italian Americans in Texas. Former episodes of the series have been watched and shared thousands of times online. The series are endorsed by the Consulate of Italy in Houston.

The Italian Cultural & Community Center is a 501c3 whose mission is to preserve, celebrate and advance Italian culture and heritage. To learn more about Italian Cultural & Community Center’s multiple programs and offerings visit our website: <http://www.iccchouston.com/>.

**WHO:** Italian Cultural & Community Center & ITAL

**WHEN:** **Sunday, May 25, 2014 - 5:00 p.m.**

**WHERE:** ICCC Houston  
1101 Milford  
Houston, TX 77006

**PRICE:** Free

**ON-SITE**

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