



Cristina Leonardo

Product Manager
Healthcare & Biopharma



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Core Skills

Product Leadership

- Product Strategy & Vision
- Product Lifecycle Management
- Roadmap Ownership
- Go-to-market & Product Releases
- AI/ML-enabled Software Products

Execution & Leadership

- Agile/Scrum
- Product Ownership
- Cross-functional Leadership
- Stakeholder & External Partner Management
- Product & Project Delivery

Technical Expertise

- AI/ML Product Development
- Python & MATLAB
- Spectroscopy & Photonics

Quality & Compliance

- Biopharma
- Molecular Diagnostics
- Precision Oncology
- GMP & IVDR Compliance
- ISO 9001 & ISO 13485

Languages

- 🇮🇹 Italian — Native
- 🇬🇧 English — C1
- 🇩🇪 German — B1
- 🇵🇹 Portuguese — A2
- 🇪🇸 Spanish — A1

Technical Product Manager with strong scientific background and 8+ years of experience across AI/ML and complex hardware/software products. Experienced in leading regulated products from concept through requirements, development, verification, validation, launch, and commercialization. Combined scientific and technical understanding with product strategy and cross-functional leadership across engineering, data science, R&D, regulatory, quality, operations, and commercial teams. PhD in Physics with an international research career.

Working Experience

Lead Product Manager — Part-time Consultant

May 2026 – Present

expressTEC

Faro, Portugal

Lead Product Manager for a SW-enabled PCR-based molecular diagnostics platform supporting precision oncology. Defining the product strategy and translating clinical, scientific, and regulatory needs into a scalable digital product.

- Own product strategy, intended use, user needs, and product requirements for a cloud-based platform providing clinicians with biomarker interpretation and therapy-support insights.
- Drive product development from concept through verification, validation, and commercialization within an IVDR-compliant design-control and traceability framework.
- Translate complex molecular and clinical information into clear product requirements and user-centered workflows.
- Align scientific, technical, clinical, and business considerations to define product priorities and support commercialization.

Product Manager

Mar 2025 – Present

CLADE

Esslingen am Neckar, Germany

Own the roadmap and end-to-end lifecycle of integrated hardware/software GMP products for biopharmaceutical manufacturing, combining Product Manager, Product Owner, and Project Manager responsibilities.

- Own product roadmap, requirements, backlog, prioritization, releases, and lifecycle decisions across integrated HW/SW products.
- Serve as Product Owner for multidisciplinary teams spanning hardware, software, data science, laboratory, and R&D functions.
- Lead the design and development of a next-generation analytical platform, coordinating multidisciplinary engineering teams and external development partners from requirements definition through system design, verification and validation strategies.
- Increased software feature output by >120% YoY through improved prioritization, backlog refinement, and cross-functional execution.
- Led new product launch while managing the end-of-life transition of the previous product generation.
- Align Service, Operations, Development, and customer needs while supporting quality, product readiness, and ISO 9001-compliant processes.

Education

PhD in Physics
LMU Munich & Max Planck Institute
of Quantum Optics
Munich, Germany
2017–2021

Spectroscopy, machine learning, biomedical data analysis, and personalized medicine.

MSc in Chemistry
Università degli Studi di Padova
Padua, Italy
2013–2015

Advanced spectroscopy and computational analysis of biomolecular dynamics.

Selected Publications

Leonardo C. et al.
Bidirectional energy flow in the photosystem II supercomplex.
J. Phys. Chem. B, 2024
First author

Leonardo C. et al.
Infrared Signatures of Phycobilins within the Phycocyanin 645 Complex.
J. Phys. Chem. B, 2023
First author

Plasma infrared fingerprinting with machine learning enables single-measurement multi-phenotype health screening.
Cell Reports Medicine, 2024
Second author

Molecular Origin of Blood-Based Infrared Spectroscopic Fingerprints.
Angewandte Chemie, 2021
Second author; featured on cover

Hobbies & Interests

- Reading & Podcasts
- AI & Product Innovation
- Psychology & Personal Development
- Meditation & Yoga
- Strength Training
- Dancing & Outdoor activities
- Art & Culture

Oct 2023 –
Feb 2025

iLoF Porto, Portugal
Led AI/ML-enabled IVD products combining photonics, machine learning, and clinical data for early disease detection, including Alzheimer’s disease and oncology applications.

- Owned product activities across discovery, requirements, development, regulatory preparation, and product lifecycle management.
- Led cross-functional data science and biology teams developing AI/ML algorithms for multiple disease detection using advanced spectroscopic data.
- Translated clinical and stakeholder needs into product requirements, development priorities, regulatory documentation, and product strategy.
- Drove strategic product documentation including state-of-the-art and competitor analyses, market opportunities, design inputs, stakeholder requirements, development plans, and risk management.
- Enabled successful ISO 13485 certification and supported the regulatory strategy for software as an IVD.
- Represented the company with external industry and research stakeholders, strengthening scientific and commercial collaborations.

Scientific & Research Experience

Postdoctoral Fellow in Chemistry

Nov 2021 – Oct 2023 **LBNL & UC Berkeley** Berkeley, California
Developed advanced optical spectroscopy instrumentation and computational analysis approaches to uncover complex biomolecular dynamics in photosynthetic systems.

- Optimized advanced spectroscopy hardware and experimental workflows to improve experimental data quality.
- Built Python and MATLAB data-analysis pipelines and applied ML-supported approaches to complex experimental datasets.
- Led scientific projects through analysis, interpretation, publication, and scientific communication.

Doctoral degree in Physics

2017 – 2021 **Max-Planck-Institute MPQ & LMU** Munich, Germany
Developed spectroscopy- and machine-learning approaches for disease detection from human biofluids within personalized medicine research, working in the research environment of Nobel Laureate Prof. Ferenc Krausz.

- Developed supervised and unsupervised ML models and advanced spectroscopy workflows for disease detection and phenotype-specific spectral characterization using human biofluids data from a cohort of 4,000+ individuals.
- Built Python-based data pipelines and applied clustering and multivariate analytical approaches to complex biomedical datasets.
- Worked at the intersection of physics, spectroscopy, data science, and clinical research to investigate molecular signatures associated with human health and disease.
- Bridged clinical needs, experimental research, and quantitative analysis while collaborating with multidisciplinary scientific stakeholders.
- Contributed to peer-reviewed research on blood-based infrared molecular fingerprints and ML-enabled health screening.