Dr. Marcello Calisti is Associate Professor of Agri-Robotics at School of Agri-Food Technology and Food Manufacturing of the University of Lincoln, the UK, and Affiliate Professor at Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy. He has worked in robotics for more than 15 years, within the domains of Bioinspired Robotics, Soft Robotics and Underwater Robotics. He contributed to the development of Soft Robotics in Europe within the OCTOPUS and RoboSoft CA European Projects, and pioneered underwater legged robotics as Principal Investigator of National Geographic funded projects SILVER and GOLD, and company (Arbi srl) funded project Blue Resolution.

He is/was Principal Investigator of several national/international projects (BBSRC, AgriTechG, TPIF, IUK, SBRI, NatGeo, etc.) focussing on designing, deploying and empowering soft and bio-inspired robots. He is currently researching in the domain of robotic fruit harvesting with soft gripper, and he is leading projects for blackberry, strawberry (ARU) and salad (G&G) harvesting. He is also leading the ISILDUR project, to assist tree nurseries to address labour shortage of the sector. He is an editorial member of robotics journals and executive editorial member of IOP Bioinspiration and Biomimetics. He published more than 30 papers on ISI journals and several conference and book contributions. He is an IEEE Member since 2007, a National Geographic Explorer since 2017, and a FHEA since 2021.