Francesco Saverio Pavone was born in Bari on 23 March 1962. In 1989 he obtained his Laurea degree in Physics at the University of Florence. In 1990 he became Research Officer at the European Laboratory for Non-Linear Spectroscopy (University of Florence). In 1993 he obtained a Ph.D. in Optics at the National Institute for Optics (Florence, Italy). In 1997 he spent one year and half as "Maitre de Conférences Associé au College de France", Paris, with experimental work at  the "Ecole Normale Supérieure" (ENS) with Prof. Claude Cohen-Tannoudji (1997 Nobel prize in Physics). In 1998 he became associate Professor of Physics at the Department of Physics of the University of Perugia (Italy) and Scientific Director of the section of Atomic and Molecular Physics at the European Laboratory for Non-Linear Spectroscopy (LENS) in Florence (Italy). In 2001 he moved as Associate professor to the University of Florence (Dept. of Physics) and became Scientific responsible of the “biophysics laboratory” of the European Laboratory for Non-Linear Spectroscopy (Florence, Italy). In 2005 he became Full professor.

From 1990 to 1995 he worked in the field of “Atomic and molecular spectroscopy”. From 1995 to 1999 he worked in the field of Atomic physics, and since 1999 in Biophysics. Currently he is directing a research group of more than 40 people working in the field of biophotonics on single molecule biophysics, microscopy imaging-spectroscopy techniques, biomedical imaging and laser manipulation of bio-samples. In particular, he is developing new microscopy techniques for high resolution and high sensitivity imaging, and for laser manipulation purposes. These techniques have been applied for both single molecule biophysics, single cell imaging and optical manipulation. Pavone is also working also in the field of tissue imaging, where non-linear optical techniques have been applied for tissue pathology detection or for neural or cardiac imaging. In this area, many contributions have been realized with new techniques based on imaging and spectroscopic content to detect neural and cardiac activity together with whole organ imaging to connect structure and functionality.

Pavone is author of many internationals papers and editor of international books. He has lectured in many international conferences is editor of international journals. He coordinates several European projects, is member of the Scientific Infrastructure Board of the European Flagship “Human Brain Project” and has organized several international congresses. He is also Director of the European Laboratory for Non-Linear Spectroscopy in Florence and winner of a European Research Council Advanced Grant.