New advances in Heart Failure and Atrial Fibrillation

President: Michele M. Gulizia, MD, FACA
Heart Failure (HF) and Atrial Fibrillation (AF) are two emerging pathologies over which many investigators are addressing their researches.

The diffusion of HF and AF in the sick population represents one of the major public health problem at the beginning of the third millennium.

This three days’ cardiology meeting is intended to reach the objectives of giving the latest information about the pathophysiology, the diagnosis and the treatment of HF and AF.

It is addressed to cardiologists, internists, first aid clinicians, fellows, with a high interest in the whole management of these cardiac pathologies.

A Faculty, selected between the leading experts on the field, will provide the highest quality teaching highlighting the current state and limitation of scientific knowledge and presenting a detailed analysis of the most recent developments in the treatment of HF, AF or both.

The scientific program will be developed through courses, symposia, debates on controversial topics, luncheon panels, focus on, and cases-review from Faculty and Attendance.

Michele M. Gulizia
President of the Meeting
ORGANISED BY
Cardiology Unit
S. Luigi – S. Currò Hospital
Catania – Italy

scientific secretariat
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CONGRESS VENUE
Hotel Villa Diodoro
Via Bagnoli Croci, 75
Taormina (Me) - Italy
sotto l’Alto patronato del Presidente della Repubblica
under the High Patronage of President of the Italian Republic

con il patrocinio di
under the auspices of

Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri
President of the Ministers’ Council
Ministero della Salute
Ministry of Health
Ministero dell’Università e Pubblica Istruzione
Ministry of the University and Public Education
Ministero per gli Affari Regionali
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Municipality of Catania
Comune di Taormina
Municipality of Taormina
Azienda Ospedaliera “Garibaldi, S.Luigi – S. Currò, Ascoli-Tomaselli” di Catania
Hospital Enterprise “Garibaldi, S.Luigi – S. Currò, Ascoli-Tomaselli” of Catania
Università degli Studi di Catania
University of Studies of Catania
Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia - Università di Catania
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery – University of Catania
Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi Provincia di Catania
Medical and Surgical Association of the Province of Catania
Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting
Taormina, April 10 - 12 2003

under the auspices of

ESC
European Society of Cardiology
Working Group on Arrhythmias
Working Group on Cardiac Pacing

AIAC
Associazione Italiana
di Aritmologia e Cardiostimolazione

ANCE
Associazione Italiana
Cardiologi Extraospedalieri

ANMCO
Associazione Nazionale Medici
Cardiologi Ospedalieri

ARCA
Associazioni Regionali
Cardiologi Ambulatoriali

FIC
Federazione Italiana di Cardiologia

SIC
Società Italiana di Cardiologia

ICPES
International Cardiac Pacing
& Electrophysiology Society

ISHNE
International Society for Holter
& Noninvasive Electrocardiology

NASPE
North American Society
of Pacing and Electrophysiology

SOLAECE
Sociedad Latinoamericana
de Estimulación Cardiaca
y Electrofisiología
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Honorary President
Salvatore Mangiameli (Catania)

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D. Gras (Nantes, France)
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D. Igidbashian (Legnago, Italy)
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H. Klein (Magdeburg, Germany)
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B. Lüderitz (Bonn, Germany)
M. Lunati (Milan, Italy)
A. Maggioni (Milan, Italy)
S. Mangiameli (Catania, Italy)
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P. Marconi (Florence, Italy)
G. Mascioli (Brescia, Italy)
C. Menozzi (Reggio Emilia, Italy)
A.S. Montenero (Sesto S. Giovanni, Italy)
C. Morillo (Hamilton, Canada)
E. Mossuti (Siracusa, Italy)
A. Mugelli (Florence, Italy)
F. Naccarella (Bologna, Italy)
G. Neri (Montebelluna, Italy)
G. Nicolosi (Pordenone, Italy)
S. Nisam (Diegem, Belgium)
E. Occhetta (Novara, Italy)
A. Oto (Ankara, Turkey)
E. Ovsyshcher (Beer Sheva, Israel)
L. Padeletti (Florence, Italy)
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E. Prystowsky (Indianapolis, USA)
P. Puglisi (Rome, Italy)
C. Rapezzi (Bologna, Italy)
A. Raviele (Mestre – Venice, Italy)
R. Ricci (Rome, Italy)
V.E. Rubino (Catania, Italy)
S. Saksena (Millburn, USA)
M. Santini (Rome, Italy)
M. Santomauro (Naples, Italy)
M. Scaglione (Asti, Italy)
M. Scherillo (Benevento, Italy)
A. Schuchert (Hamburg, Germany)
L. Sciarrà (Portogruaro, Italy)
S. Sermasi (Rimini, Italy)
G. Sinagra (Trieste, Italy)
P. Sogaard (Aarhus, Denmark)
C. Tamburino (Catania, Italy)
H.J. Trappe (Herne, Germany)
P. Vardas (Heraklion, Greece)
C. Vassanelli (Novara, Italy)
G. Vergara (Rovereto, Italy)
M.S. Verzuri (Siena, Italy)
L. Zamparelli (Naples, Italy)
F. Zanon (Rovigo, Italy)
L. Zulli (Rome, Italy)
Invited discussant

R. Albiero (Palermo, Italy)  P. Gambino (Ribera, Italy)
B. Aloisi (Troina, Italy)    S. Giglia (Caltanissetta, Italy)
E. Badalamenti (Palermo, Italy)  R. Grassi (Messina, Italy)
I. Bianca (Taormina, Italy)   V. Indelicato (Sciacca, Italy)
G. Butera (Palermo, Italy)    G. Ingianni (Marsala, Italy)
C. Cacia (Catania, Italy)     M.S. Iudicello (Sant' Agata di Militello, Italy)
V. Calvi (Catania, Italy)     G.V. Lettiga (Vittoria, Italy)
A. Canonico (Palermo, Italy)  D. Lombardo (Catania, Italy)
V. Carini (Catania, Italy)    L. Malluzzo (Canicatti, Italy)
A. Casale (Nicosia, Italy)   M. Moncada (Lentini, Italy)
V.A. Ciconte (Catanzaro, Italy)  A.V. Panno (Casteldaccia, Italy)
R. Coco (Catania, Italy)      C. Pasquale (Siracusa, Italy)
G. Consolo (Messina, Italy)  L. Pavia (Messina, Italy)
G. Costanza (Canicatti, Italy)  F. Perticone (Rome, Italy)
E. D' Antonio (Palermo, Italy)  S. Raciti (Catania, Italy)
A. Dato (Paternò, Italy)    A. Rubino (Palermo, Italy)
C. De Gregorio (Messina, Italy)  L. Scarnato (S. Cataldo, Italy)
R. Di Caro (Gela, Italy)    R. Siciliano (Giarre, Italy)
P. Di Pasquale (Palermo, Italy)  R. Terrazzino (Licata, Italy)
G. Di Tano (Messina, Italy)  S. Tolaro (Pedara, Italy)
F. Enia (Palermo, Italy)    M. Traina (Palermo, Italy)
R. Evola (Taormina, Italy)   I. Vaccaro (Agrigento, Italy)
A. Fiscella (Catania, Italy)  C. Vasco (Enna, Italy)
A. Galassi (Catania, Italy)  L. Vasquez (Milazzo, Italy)
A.R. Galassi (Catania, Italy)  M. Zammataro (Catania, Italy)
**Basic Life Support Defibrillation (BLS-D)**

*Director of the Courses: A. Danesi (Rome)*

**Program at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASTELMOLA room</th>
<th>THURSDAY, April 10</th>
<th>FRIDAY, April 11</th>
<th>SATURDAY, April 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.00 - 13.00</strong></td>
<td>BLS-D Course Part I</td>
<td>BLS-D Course Part I</td>
<td>BLS-D Course Part I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Instructors:** | G. Palazzo (Catania)  
S. Campione (Catania)  
M. Gulizia (Catania)  
V.E. Rubino (Catania) | G.M. Francese (Catania)  
M. Gulizia (Catania)  
G. Palazzo (Catania) | S. Campione (Catania)  
G.M. Francese (Catania)  
V.E. Rubino (Catania) |
| **13.00 - 14.30** | Lunch | Lunch | Lunch |
| **14.30 - 18.30** | BLS-D Course Part II | BLS-D Course Part II | BLS-D Course Part II |
| **Instructors:** | G. Palazzo (Catania)  
S. Campione (Catania)  
M. Gulizia (Catania)  
V.E. Rubino (Catania) | G.M. Francese (Catania)  
M. Gulizia (Catania)  
G. Palazzo (Catania) | S. Campione (Catania)  
G.M. Francese (Catania)  
V.E. Rubino (Catania) |
## Global Program at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>ETNA room</th>
<th>TAORMINA room</th>
<th>CASTELMOLA room</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.00 - 10.30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 - 13.00</td>
<td>Minicourse</td>
<td>Minicourse</td>
<td>MEDTRONIC Luncheon Panel</td>
<td>BLS-D Course - part I</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00 - 15.00</td>
<td>In- and Outhospital Management</td>
<td>In- and Outhospital Management of Heart Failure</td>
<td>Lunch on Multidisciplinary Approach on Cardiac</td>
<td>9.00 - 13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 - 17.00</td>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>Symposium</td>
<td>3M Interactive</td>
<td>BLS-D Course - part II</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.00 - 17.00</td>
<td>Atrial Fibrillation &amp; Heart Failure: the chicken-egg dilemma</td>
<td>Atrial Fibrillation Therapy: from fiction to facts</td>
<td>Satellite Symposium</td>
<td>14.30 - 18.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00 - 17.30</td>
<td>Opening ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30 - 18.15</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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<td>18.30</td>
<td>Welcome Cocktail</td>
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<td><strong>FRIDAY, April 11</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 10.30</td>
<td>Symposium State of the Art in the Current Trends and Treatments of Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter</td>
<td>Intercultural Exchanges on AF Therapy</td>
<td>BLS-D Course - part I 9.00 - 13.00</td>
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<td>10.30 - 11.00</td>
<td>Exhibition visit &amp; Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 - 13.00</td>
<td>MEDTRONIC Satellite Symposium Hot Topics in Tachycardia Management</td>
<td>Intercultural Exchanges on AF &amp; HF Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00 - 14.30</td>
<td>GUIDANT Luncheon Panel The role of Electrical Therapy in patients with left ventricular dysfunction</td>
<td>MEDICO Luncheon Panel New Advances in Bi-Ventricular Pacing</td>
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<td>16.30 - 17.00</td>
<td>Exhibition visit &amp; Coffee break</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.00 - 18.30</td>
<td>Symposium Is there still a role for Cardioversion in AF patients?</td>
<td>Intercultural Exchanges on CHF Resynchronisation</td>
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<td>20.00</td>
<td>Gala Dinner</td>
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<td><strong>SATURDAY, April 12</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 - 10.30</td>
<td>Symposium Ultimate and Ongoing Trials on Heart Failure</td>
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<td>BLS-D Course - part I 9.00 - 13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00 - 13.00</td>
<td>SEARLE - PHARMACIA Division Satellite Symposium Pufa n-3: present and future role</td>
<td>Symposium Implantable Devices for Atrial Arrhythmias: are those with Continuous Monitoring Function changing the Management of Paroxismal AF patients?</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.00 - 14.30</td>
<td>SANOFI-SYNTHELABO Luncheon Panel New concepts in the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.30 - 16.30</td>
<td>Symposium 10 Years of Biventricular Pacing in CHF: much more than a promise?</td>
<td>A.I.A.C. Symposium Hybrid therapy in AF and HF</td>
<td>BLS-D Course - part II 14.30 - 18.30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Minicourse
Atrial Arrhythmias: Drugs, Devices or Ablation for the Prevention and the Treatment of the Recurrences?
Chairmen: E. Adornato (Reggio Calabria), C. Tamburino (Catania)

11.00 Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter: sympathetic nervous system and arrhythmogenesis
F. Lombardi (Milan)

11.15 Current Approach and Treatment in Acute Atrial Fibrillation
G. Chiarandà (Augusta)

11.30 Pacing, ICD or both for the hybrid therapy of Atrial Arrhythmias?
G. Boriani (Bologna)

11.45 Management of referred Syncopal Episodes in patients with Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation
F. Ammirati (Rome)

12.00 Is there still a role for right atrial ablation in patients with AF?
M.L. Loricchio (Rome)

12.15 Surgical treatment of Atrial Fibrillation during mitral valve surgery
L. Patané (Pedara – Catania)

Invited discussants:
I. Bianca (Taormina)
V. Carini (Catania)
A. Casale (Nicosia)
C. De Gregorio (Messina)
A. Galassi (Catania)
Thursday, April 10 morning

11.00 – 13.00 Minicourse
In- and Outhospital Management of Heart Failure patients

*Chairmen: V. Cirrincione (Palermo), R. Pedretti (Tradate)*

11.00  Ace-Inhibitors, beta-blockers, spironolattone: do we need much more drugs to treat chronic Heart Failure?
G. Sinagra (Trieste)

11.15  Non-invasive evaluation and early treatment of Heart Failure patients
M. Scherillo (Benevento)

11.30  The problem of recreational sport in patient with mild to moderate Heart Failure
F. Furlanello (Milan-Trento)

11.45  Wireless home monitoring on permanent cardiac stimulation: is it especially suitable in CHF patients?
D. Igidbashian (Legnago)

12.00  Organizational and economical point of view in the management of CHF patient
R. Pedretti (Tradate)

12.15  Electromagnetic interferences in Biventricular and/or ICD paced patients
M. Santomauro (Naples)

*Invited discussants:*
R. Coco (Catania)
A. Dato (Paternò)
R. Evola (Taormina)
S. Raciti (Catania)
Thursday, April 10 morning

13.00-15.00 Medtronic Luncheon Panel
Multidisciplinary Approach to Heart Failure and Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy

Chairmen: E. Ovsyshcher (Beer Sheva), A. Puglisi (Rome)

13.00 The selection of patients for cardiac resynchronisation therapy
D. Gras (Nantes)

13.20 The perspective of the emergency department
L. Zulli (Rome)

13.40 Which is the role of internal medicine in the identification of candidates for cardiac resynchronisation therapy?
M. Pagani (Milan)

14.00 Biventricular resynchronisation in cardiac surgery
A.M. Calafiore, G. Di Giammarco (Chieti)

Invited discussants:
G. Costanza (Canicattì)
F. Enia (Palermo)
S. Giglia (Caltanissetta)
C. Vasco (Enna)
M. Zammataro (Catania)
Symposium
Atrial Fibrillation & Heart Failure: the chicken – egg dilemma

Chairmen: D. Cannon (Los Angeles), S. Mangiameli (Catania)

15.00 - 17.00

15.00
Atrial and ventricular instability in Heart Failure patients
R. Cappato (San Donato Milanese)

15.15
Type of Therapy and Quality of Life in Atrial Fibrillation
B. Lüderitz (Bonn)

15.30
Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation in Chronic Heart Failure patient: facts or fancy?
F. Gaita (Turin)

15.45
Advances in electrical therapy: multisite atrial and ventricular pacing for treatment and prevention of Atrial Fibrillation in CHF patients?
S. Saksena (Millburn)

16.00
Risk - stratification in Heart Failure patients with different disease severity
A. Oto (Ankara)

16.15
Surgical treatment of end-stage CHF
A. Bartoloni (Pedara - Catania)

16.30
Final discussion

Invited discussants:
R. Albiero (Palermo)
V. Calvi (Catania)
V. Indelicato (Sciacca)
F. Perticone (Rome)
M. Traina (Palermo)
Thursday, April 10 afternoon

15.00-17.00  3M Interactive Satellite Symposium
Atrial Fibrillation therapy: from fiction to facts

Chairmen: A. Auteri (Siena), C. Morillo (Hamilton)

15.00  Pharmacological cardioversion to sinus rhythm of recent
onset paroxysmal atrial fibrillation in the emergency room
M.S. Verzuri (Siena)

15.20  Non-pharmacological therapy of AF: evidence and future perspectives
M. Scaglione (Asti)

15.40  The AFFIRM study and its implications
for the pharmacological treatment of AF
A. Capucci (Piacenza)

16.00  Antiarrhythmic agents in atrial fibrillation:
a new role in the context of a hybrid approach?
G. Boriani (Bologna)

Invited discussants:
A. Dato (Paternò)
G. Ingianni (Marsala)
L. Malluzzo (Canicattì)
L. Pavia (Messina)
S. Tolaro (Pedara)

Opening ceremony

17.00-17.30  Opening ceremony
Welcoming addresses

17.30-18.15  Lecture:
Sudden Death Prevention in Heart Failure: which role for ICD?
A. Raviele (Mestre – Venice)

18.30  Welcome Cocktail
9.00-10.30 **Symposium**
State of the Art in the current Trends and Treatments of Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter

*Chairmen: G. Jauvert (Paris), A. Raviele (Mestre-Venice)*

9.00 Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter: new insights into electrophysiologic mechanisms
E. Prystowsky (Indianapolis)

9.15 Pharmacologic therapy of Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter: advances and limitations of specific antiarrhythmic drugs
P. Alboni (Cento)

9.30 Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter: latest from the planet of right RF-catheter Ablation
M. Lunati (Milan)

9.45 Optimal pacing system for the prevention of Atrial Fibrillation
M. Santini (Rome)

10.00 Circumferential Pulmonary Vein Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation improves Mortality, Morbidity and Quality of Life?
C. Pappone (Milan)

*Invited discussants:*
V.A. Ciconte (Catanzaro)
G. Di Tano (Messina)
G.V. Lettiga (Vittoria)
C. Pasquale (Siracusa)
L. Vasquez (Milazzo)
**Friday, April 11 morning**

9.00-10.30 *Intercultural Exchanges*  
AF Therapy  

**Taormina room**  

*Chairmen: C. Morillo (Hamilton), F. Naccarella (Bologna)*

**9.00**  
Benefits of Radiofrequency Ablation and Dual Chamber Pacing For Third Degree Atrioventricular Block Associated with Common Type Atrial Flutter: a two cases report.  
**M. Leoncini, R. Mureddu, M. Piana, A. Ranise S. Acquarone, G. Musso**  
Imperia, Italy

**9.15**  
Ablate and Pace procedure: a cost-efficacy analysis.  
**G. Mascioli, A. Curnis, L. Bontempi, T. Bordonali, L. De Luca, L.M. Culot, F. Costa, L. Dei Cas.**  
Brescia, Italy

**9.30**  
Quality of Life (Qol) Improvement in patients with CLASS 2 indication to RF Ablation.  
**A. Curnis, L. Bontempi, T. Bordonali, LM. Culot, M. Racheli, F. Costa, G. Mascioli, L. Dei Cas**  
Brescia, Italy

**9.45**  
Assessing the electromagnetic compatibility of a welding machine in a patient with a DDD PM equipped with algorithms for AF prevention  
**M.F. Pasqualini, M.C. Brunazzi, M. Trombetti, S. Reggiani**  
Pieve di Coriano (MN), Italy

**10.00**  
Optimal definition of the Atrial Fibrillation burden using the diagnostic algorithms of the St Jude Medical pacemakers.  
**G.H. Mairesse, R. Campagnolo, M. Emonts, Jl. Pasquay, K. Mitri**  
Arlon, Belgium

**10.15**  
Amiodarone and Diltiazem as a single oral dose versus Placebo for the conversion of recent Atrial Fibrillation  
**A. Kondili, I. Balla, F. Shatri Artur Gące**  
Tirana, Albania
11.00-13.00 *Medtronic Satellite Symposium*

**Hot Topics in Tachyarrhythmias management**

*Chairmen: M. Gulizia (Catania), M. Santini (Rome)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.00</td>
<td>The impact of LocaLisa on ablation management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>J. Almendral (Madrid)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>The role of septal pacing in a large cohort of AF patients with bradycardia: how to maximize the clinical outcome with device therapy?</td>
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<td>L. Padeletti (Florence)</td>
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<td>11.50</td>
<td>Device therapy for atrial arrhythmias: latest topics from AT500 Italian Registry</td>
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<td>G.L. Botto (Como)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15</td>
<td>Can dual defibrillator improves quality of life and hospitalisations in patients with drug-refractory atrial fibrillation?</td>
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<td>R. Ricci (Rome)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.40</td>
<td>MADIT II in the clinical practice today</td>
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<td>P. Vardas (Heraklion)</td>
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*Invited discussants:*

- R. Albiero (Palermo)
- E. Badalamenti (Palermo)
- S. Giglia (Caltanissetta)
- L. Scarnato (San Cataldo)
- I. Vaccaro (Agrigento)
Friday, April 11 morning

11.00-13.00 \textit{Intercultural Exchanges}  
\textbf{AF & HF Management}  

\textit{Chairmen: E. Mossuti (Siracusa), S. Sermasi (Rimini)}

11.00  
Advantages and limitations of Interventional Closure of Atrial Septal Defects in Adults with Amplatzer Device - A single center Experience in 250 Consecutive Patients  
Frankfurt, Germany

11.15  
Percutaneous Occlusion of the Left Atrial Appendage - A novel technique to prevent thrombembolism in Patients with Chronical Atrial Fibrillation  
Frankfurt, Germany

11.30  
Investigations into the prognostic stratification, management and evolution towards Heart Failure, of non Q-wave miocardial infarction. Role of echodopplergraphy perfusion study.  
\textbf{P. Gruppillo, P. Marchi, G. Chiavacci, M. Bertusi, M. Zappi}  
Ferrara, Italy

11.45  
Cardiac Troponin I in Chronic Heart Failure  
\textbf{N. Siniscalchi, A. Di Napoli, E. Martucci, R. Di Napoli, T. Cerciello, A. Grassia}  
Naples, Italy

12.00  
Nebivolol in the Complex Therapy of Dilateted Cardiomyopathy Patients with Severe Heart Failure  
Tashkent, Uzbekistan

12.15  
\textbf{F. Naccarella, G. Naccarelli, S. Sdringola Maranga, G. Lepera, E. Ambrosiani, C. Borghi, G. Arpesella}  
Bologna, Italy
13.00 – 14.30 Guidant Luncheon Panel
Etna room

The role of Electrical Therapy in patients with left ventricular dysfunction

Chairmen: D. D’Este (Mirano), H. Klein (Magdeburg)

13.00 Clinical cardiologist's experience
S. Favale (Bari)

13.15 The electrophysiological aspect
E. Bertaglia (Mirano)

13.30 The role of echocardiography
P. Sogaard (Aarhus)

13.45 Integrated therapies for Heart Failure and sudden death in Ischemic Cardiopathy
C. Leclercq (Rennes)

14.00 Integrated therapies for Heart Failure and sudden death in Dilatative Cardiopathy
A. Auricchio (Magdeburg)

Invited discussants:
V. Carini (Catania)
P. Gambino (Ribera)
M.S. Iudicello (S. Agata di Militello)
A. Rubino (Palermo)
Friday, April 11 afternoon

13.00 – 14.30 Medico Luncheon Panel
New Advances in Biventricular Pacing

Chairmen: G. Buja (Padua), D. Gascon (Sevilla)

13.00 Clinical issues in the ventricular synchronisation therapy of HF
C. Borasteros (Avila)

13.20 The lead for electrical resynchronisation: evolution technique
G. Mascioli (Brescia)

13.40 Improving Biventricular sensing function
F. Dorticos (Havana)

14.00 Multisite LV stimulation
G. Neri (Montebelluna)

Invited discussants:
G. Butera (Palermo)
V. Calvi (Catania)
L. Malluzzo (Canicatti)
I. Vaccaro (Agrigento)
14.30-16.30  *Biotronik Satellite Symposium*  
*New approaches in electrical treatment and management of HF patients*

*Chairmen: R. Cazzin (Portogruaro), S. Saksena (Millburn)*

**14.30**  
Benefits of Closed Loop Stimulation in resynchronisation therapy  
P. Diotallevi (Alessandria)

**14.45**  
Dual site RV pacing in HF patients with permanent AF  
L. Zamparelli (Napoli)

**15.00**  
Optimization of resynchronisation therapy by intracardiac ventricular impedance  
M. Bocchiardo (Asti)

**15.15**  
The role of Home Monitoring in Management of HF patients  
G. Jackl (Vienna)

**15.30**  
The role of “single shock” ICD for sudden death primary prevention in HF patients  
J. Brachmann (Coburg)

**15.45**  
Biventricular Pacing: a Simplified Technique for Transvenous Implantation  
L. Sciarra (Portogruaro)

*Invited discussants:*

V.A. Ciconte (Catanzaro)  
V. Indelicato (Sciacca)  
L. Pavia (Messina)  
R. Terrazzino (Licata)
14.30-16.30  Vitatron Satellite Symposium

Innovative pacing techniques: solutions for AF and HF

Chairmen: M.G. Bongiorni (Pisa), D. Gras (Nantes)

14.30  Pacing in AF: therapies for rhythm control
A. Carboni (Parma)

14.50  Pacing in AF: therapies for rate control
A. Schuchert (Hamburg)

15.10  Incidence and diagnosis of AF in patients with Heart Failure
G. Mascioli (Brescia)

15.30  What have we learned from CRT trials?
F. Zanon (Rovigo)

15.50  Novel treatment options in patients suffering from Heart Failure and AF
A. Auricchio (Magdeburg)

Invited discussants:
B. Aloisi (Troina)
R. Di Caro (Gela)
D. Lombardo (Catania)
R. Siciliano (Giarre)
17.00 Symposium 
Is there still a role for cardioversion in AF patients?

Chairmen: E. Alt (Munich), A. Capucci (Piacenza)

17.00 ESC-Guidelines for Atrial Fibrillation: what far from clinical practice?
J.P. Le Heuzey (Paris)

17.15 Which drugs, which doses in the Pharmacological Cardioversion of Atrial Fibrillation lasted less than 48 hours?
C. Morillo (Hamilton)

17.30 Is Fluoroscopic Electrode Positioning improving clinical efficacy of External Biphasic Cardioversion in AF patients?
P. Marconi, G. Castelli (Florence)

17.45 Always Transesophageal Echocardiography before Cardioversion of AF patients after conventional Anticoagulant strategy?
G.L. Nicolosi (Pordenone)

18.00 Anticoagulation therapy of Atrial Fibrillation in the Elderly
G. Di Pasquale (Bentivoglio)

Invited discussants:
P. Di Pasquale (Palermo)
F. Enia (Palermo)
M. Moncada (Lentini)
A.V. Panno (Casteldaccia)
C. Vasco (Enna)
17.00-18.30  Intercultural Exchanges
CHF Resynchronisation

Chairmen: A. Circo (Catania), A. Puglisi (Rome)

17.00  Some evidences of ECG in dilated cardiomyopathy patients
E.V. Kiyakbaeva, T.A. Abdullaev, N.A. Kurbanov, I.R. Prokhorova
Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

17.15  Patients with Heart Failure (HF), Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (IDC)
and left bundle branch block get the greatest benefit and live longer
with cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT)
M. Lunati, M. Frigerio, F. Oliva, M. Paolucci, G. Magenta,
G. Cattafi, R. Vecchi, E. Vitali, I. Vicini, T. De Santo
Milan, Italy

17.30  Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy in "Narrow QRS" patients
M. Sassara, A. Achilli, D. Pontillo, S. Ficili, P. Achilli, L. Serraino, F. Serra,
F. Benvissuto, E. D’Ettorre, L. Sallusti
Viterbo, Italy

17.45  Cardiac resynchronisation therapy in Heart Failure: do we need back-up shock?
R. Ricci, G. Ansalone, C. Pignalberi, M. Russo, B. Magris, L. Santini,
M. Santini
Rome, Italy

18.00  Dual Chamber/Single Chamber ICD indications: Dual Chamber ICD
and/or Biventricular Pacing in patients with CHF
F. Naccarella, G. Naccarelli, S. Sdringola Maranga, G. Lepera, G. Arpesella
Bologna, Italy

18.15  Organization Project for precocious semiautomatic in-hospital defibrillation
(Naples Heart Project)
M. Santomauro, L. Ottaviano, A. Borrelli, D. Da Prato, A. Costanzo,
P. Tommasini, C. Riganti, L. Quagliata, M. Chiariello
Naples, Italy
9.00-10.30  **Symposium**
Ultimate and Ongoing Trials on Heart Failure

*Chairmen: A. Auricchio (Magdeburg), A. Boccanelli (Rome)*

9.00  Epidemiology of Heart Failure: where have we got up to?
Lessons from databases
*F. Naccarella (Bologna)*

9.15  Pharmacological Trials on Heart Failure: what can we translate into the daily Clinical Practice?
*A. P. Maggioni (Milano)*

9.30  SCD-HeFT, COMPANION, CARE-HF and surroundings
*D. Cannom (Los Angeles)*

9.45  The Management of Atrial fibrillation Suppression in AF-HF COmorbitism Therapy
*M. G. Bongiorni (Pisa)*

10.00  New ICD perspectives in the congestive HF patient
*H. J. Trappe (Herne)*

*Invited discussants:*
*I. Bianca (Taormina)*
*R. Grassi (Messina)*
*G. Ingianni (Marsala)*
*M. Moncada (Lentini)*
11.00-13.00  SEARLE – Pharmacia Division Satellite Symposium
PUFA n-3: present and future role

Chairmen: E. Geraci (Palermo), G. Giuffrida (Catania)

11.00  Physiopathology and prevention of SCD
L. Dei Cas (Brescia)

11.30  Antiarrhythmogenic effect
A. Mugelli (Florence)

12.00  Metabolic hypothesis in HF
R. Marchioli (S. Maria Imbaro)

Invited discussants:
A. Canonico (Palermo)
P. Di Pasquale (Palermo)
A.R. Galassi (Catania)
M. Zammataro (Catania)
11.00-13.00  Symposium

Implantable Devices for Atrial Arrhythmias: are those with Continuous Monitoring Function changing the Management of Paroxismal AF patients?

Chairmen: M. Disertori (Trento), S. Sermasi (Rimini)

11.00  Role of Implantable Loop Recorder in the management of Atrial Fibrillation patients
A.S. Montenero (Sesto San Giovanni)

11.15  Different pacing algorithms for the Prevention of Atrial Fibrillation: special features of one compared to the others?
E. Ovshyscher (Beer Sheva)

11.30  Does stimulation site improve efficacy of Prevention and/or AntiTachy Pacing in patients with Atrial Arrhythmias?
A. Capucci (Piacenza)

11.45  Drug-device interaction for Pacing, Prevention and Therapies: the PITAGORA study
M. Gulizia (Catania)

12.00  Ultimate and ongoing trials on Device Therapy of Atrial Fibrillation
P. Delise (Conegliano)

12.15  Selection criteria for Atrial Fibrillation patients candidates to a Dual-Site ICD
E. Occhetta (Novara)

Invited discussants:
G. Butera (Palermo)
G. Costanza (Canicatti)
R. Di Caro (Gela)
P. Gambino (Ribera)
G.V. Lettiga (Vittoria)
13.00-14.30 Luncheon Panel Sanofi-Synthelabo
Etna room
New concepts in the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation

Chairmen: J.P. Le Heuzey (Paris), A. Raviele (Mestre-Venice)

13.00 Risk stratification in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation and CHF
C. Rapezzi (Bologna)

13.20 Rhythm-control versus rate-control strategy: unsolved riddle in the daily clinical practice?
F. Gaita (Turin)

13.40 Amiodarone in the treatment of AF: new perspectives from clinical trials
G. De Ferrari (Pavia)

Invited discussants:
B. Aloisi (Troina)
A. Canonico (Palermo)
E. D’Antonio (Palermo)
R. Terrazzino (Licata)
S. Tolaro (Pedara)
14.30-16.30  Symposium
10 Years of Biventricular Pacing in CHF:
much more than a promise?

Chairmen: M. Bocchiardo (Asti), P. Vardas (Heraklion)

14.30  Echocardiography in the identification of responders:
the novel role of Tissue Doppler and Strain Imaging
S. Carerj (Messina)

14.45  When and what CHF patient need to be studied in hemodynamic laboratory
C. Vassanelli (Novara)

15.00  Performing the implantation: lights and shadows of different methods
G. Vergara (Rovereto)

15.15  How to follow the resynchronised paced patients
F. Bellocci (Rome)

15.30  Biventricular Pacing with ICD backup: a luxury or a necessity?
S. Nisam (Diegem)

15.45  Costs and effectiveness of Biventricular Pacing
F. Caprari (Milan)

Invited discussants:
C. Cacia (Catania)
C. De Gregorio (Messina)
G. Di Tano (Messina)
A. Fiscella (Catania)
14.30-16.30 AIAC Symposium
Hybrid therapy in AF and HF

Chairmen: G. Inama (Crema), C. Menozzi (Reggio Emilia)

14.30 Drugs as pre-treatment of electrical cardioversion
G.L. Botto (Como)

14.45 Drugs and Pacemakers in AF and HF patients
R.M. Polimeni (Polistena)

15.00 Ablate and biventricular pacing: when and why?
A. Proclemer (Udine)

15.15 Drugs and Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators in AF and HF patients
P. Dini (Rome)

15.30 Drugs and Ablation in AF and HF patients
A. Bonso (Mestre – Venice)

15.45 May ventricular resynchronisation reduce AF recurrences?
M.G. Bongiorni (Pisa)

Invited discussants:
A. Casale (Nicosia)
G. Consolo (Messina)
A.R. Galassi (Catania)
C. Pasquale (Siracusa)
L. Vasquez (Milazzo)
INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGES
Intercultural Exchanges topics are: Atrial Fibrillation Therapy, Atrial Fibrillation & Heart Failure Management, Congestive Heart Failure Resynchronisation.
The presentation time will be 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for discussion.
Presentation will be given in the English Language only, supported by PC data projection.
All projections must be worded in English only.
All speakers are requested to keep to their allotted time. Please ensure that you are in your session room at least 10 minutes before the start of the session, and that you remain there until the end of the session.

During the opening ceremony, two of the best abstracts chosen among the ones submitted, will be awarded a prize, sponsored by Mortara Rangoni.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS
The Meeting proceedings containing the texts of presentations of the different sessions included in the Scientific Program will be published by Springer - Verlag and distributed to all registrants, during the Meeting.

PROJECTION
PC data projection is available in all the rooms. Please copy your work (using Power Point) onto a CD ROM, and to be on the safe side, bring also your lap-top with you. All projections must be worded in English only.
The speaker ready room will be at disposal of presenters and faculty to give them the opportunity to preview the projection and become familiar with the audio-visual equipment. All speakers must deliver the presentation in floppy disk or CD ROM at least 6 hours before the session at the slide centre.

LUNCHEON PANELS
Attendance at all luncheon panels (limited to seat availability) is free for all registered participants. Only for Medico luncheon panel is required an invitation.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES
Attendance certificates will be distributed to all registered delegates on Saturday, April 12, 2003.

EDUCATION PROGRAM
ECM: we have requested to be granted educational credits (C.E.M.) by the National Commission for Continuous Education. The Meeting has been appointed by 10 ECM credits. Only participants with a minimum of 17 hours of attendance will receive the ECM certificates. BLS-D Courses have been appointed by 9 ECM credits.
CONGRESS VENUE
Hotel Villa Diodoro
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OFFICIAL LANGUAGE
The official language of the Meeting is English. However a service of simultaneous translation will be offered for some sessions in the Etna Room.

EXHIBITION
The technical and pharmaceutical exhibitions will be located at the Congress Venue, close to the Conference rooms. The exhibition opening hours will follow the timetable of the Scientific Sessions.

TELEPHONES and CELLPHONES
Several telephones are available at the Congress Venue. Please contact the Hotel Reception. It is absolutely forbidden to keep cellphones switched on during Scientific Sessions.
INFORMATION DESK
An information desk will be available at the Congress Venue for restaurant reservations, travel services and general information about Taormina.

REGISTRATION
Delegate € 420,00 VAT incl.
Accompanying person € 250,00 VAT incl.
BLS-D Course € 170,00 VAT incl.

The delegate registration fee includes:
Attendance at all scientific sessions including luncheon panels (limited to seat availability), entrance to the exhibition area, meeting proceedings, attendance certificate, ECM certificate, gala dinner, badge and congress kit, welcome cocktail, and the coffee breaks taken at the Venue.

The accompanying person registration fee includes:
Entrance to the exhibition area, welcome cocktail, half day excursion and gala dinner.

The BLS-D Course registration fee includes:
Participation to the Course (from 9.00 to 18.30), entrance to the exhibition area, BLS-D licence, ECM certificate, coffee breaks and light lunch taken at the Venue. Maximum 36 participants assigned on first come first served basis, after the full payment of the charge.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION
Participants who have not made an advance reservation for accommodation may be able to do so at the Hotel Reservation Desk at the Congress Venue.
At the moment of reservation, we will charge a reservation fee of € 20,00 Vat included (for each room reserved), and a hotel deposit corresponding to the amount of one night’s Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
The deposit will be deducted from the hotel bill. The hotel will provide official receipts for the whole sum.

PAYMENT CONDITIONS
Payments accepted are: cheque written on Italian Banks and Bank transfer in Euro. All costs to transmitters’ charge.
CANCELLATION POLICY
No refund of any kind.

CHANGES OF PROGRAM
For scientific and/or technical reasons the Scientific Committee and the Organising Secretariat reserve the right to make any change in the Meeting program.

SOCIAL EVENTS

TAORMINA SIGHTSEEING (HALF DAY) - for accompanying persons only
Settled on a hill of the Monte Tauro, Taormina dominates two grand, sweeping bays on the southern side, the top of Mount Etna, offering a breathtaking, dramatic and view over almost one hundred miles of Mediterranean sea.

This itinerary will give the possibility to discover the history and the magical atmosphere of Taormina walking through Corso Umberto I. It is a lively street that runs through the town, flanked on either side by elegant shop and café and it links Porta Messina to Porta Catania.

The civic and religious monuments are concentrated along and around Corso Umberto I: Vittorio Emanuele Square, Corvaja Palace, St. Caterina Church and the Roman Odeum, Roman Baths, Naumachie, IX Aprile Square, St. Agostino Church, Ciampoli Palace, Mother Church, Palace of the Dukes of St. Stephen.

The visit will continue to the Greek-Roman Theatre. It was built in Greek times, later enlarged and almost entirely rebuilt by Romans in the second century AD. From the caved, set in a bellow in Monte Tauro, is the view that is as famous as it is beautiful.

The visit will begin at 9.30 a.m. starting from Hotel Villa Diodoro, the Congress Venue.

GALA DINNER

Old Sicilian Gastronomical Itinerary at Xirumi Castle
For hundreds of years, the castle of Xirumi-Serravalle has been the property of the Barons Grimaldi di Serravalle, part of one of the oldest noble families of Sicily.
At one time the nerve centre of the Xirumi estate covering hundreds of hectares, today the castle is surrounded by one of the largest citrus groves in Sicily (200 hectares) and is still owned by the family.

The estate also includes a Late Stone Age necropolis, an area of great historical and archaeological interest.
Dating back to the 16th century, the building consists of an internal courtyard (300 m²) onto which open a granary and storerooms, and the "palmento" and "frantoio" (where grapes and olives are pressed).

The castle looks out onto a spacious garden of palms and Mediterranean flora and is available for use in summer. Finally, there is a charming consecrated church in the grounds.

Inn the xirumi Castle will be held the Gala Dinner “Old Sicilian Gastronomical Itinerary” on April 11, 2003.

Shuttle service leaves at 19.45 from the Congress Venue, with a return trip at about midnight.
ELECTRICITY
The electric current in Italy is 220 Volts.

TIPPING
Service is generally included in the bill. However, tips are very welcome if you wish to show your appreciation for a good meal or special service.

CREDIT CARDS
Major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants and shops. Should you wish to use your credit card to pay for a taxi, please inform the driver before starting the journey.

SAFETY AND SECURITY
Taormina is as safe as any other European tourist resort, delegates are simply advised to take the usual sensible precautions. All the hotels can offer security facilities for valuable goods.

INSURANCE
Responsibility for personal accidents or loss or damage to the private property of participants and exhibitors cannot be accepted. Participants and exhibitors are advised to make their own arrangements, with respect to insurance, if they consider it necessary.
A grateful thanks to the following Companies
for their Educational Grants in support of this Meeting

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