SIC - SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI CARDIOLOGIA

PATIENT CARE, EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

[Blending tradition with innovation]
Dear friends and colleagues,

as you may know, my first involvement in the Italian Society of Cardiology-SIC goes back to the end of the 80’s, and since then I have had the privilege of serving in many positions. I feel strongly responsible as SIC President to maintain and further define its identity. The Italian Society of Cardiology, founded in 1935, represents the academic soul of cardiology and has carried out a key role in the process of defining cardiology as a distinct and autonomous science. In this perspective, one of the most important goals of the SIC must be education: such a target requires an educational annual program, which will benefit from a network linking the headquarters of the Society in Rome, the Regional Chapters and the Schools of Cardiology all over the Country, supported by the new communication facilities.

Preserving the peculiarities of the various cardiological societies doesn’t affect the dignity of Italian Cardiology, but makes the cardiological community richer and comprehensive. Surely it will be necessary to promote synergic actions to carry out regional/national/international projects, taking advantage of tools such as the Italian Federation of Cardiology-FIC, which develop an important national/international coordination role. In the same line of thinking, the convergence of SIC working groups with ANMCO areas and other cardiological societies can be accomplished in order to guarantee a strong Italian representation in Europe, but without annihilating the distinctive features of each actor. Coming to the national scene, where the cardiologic science is at risk of fragmentation due to the expansion of subspecialties, my sense is that the “holistic” cultural SIC identity is a real innovation, even though it may sound paradoxical. The 69th SIC Congress aims to reinforce the solid basis of the Italian cardiologic tradition. Although there will be a lot of joint symposia with European and American Scientific Societies, that will represent an important moment of comparison and growth, SIC Congress wants to underline the importance of Italian cardiologic culture.

Medicine is going more and more toward super-specialization: in cardiology, the introduction of new and sophisticated imaging methods and new devices for treatment of cardiovascular disease could lead, as an adverse event, to fragmentation of cardiologic culture and to hyper-specialization of young cardiologists. During the congress, therefore, we will restate the importance of the global approach that cannot be anyway replaced with the new technologies which must represent a valid support to the reasoning and clinical-diagnostic wisdom without replacing them.

According to our purpose to join tradition and innovation, spaces dedicated to new technologies and their clinical, scientific and educational role will be expanded. In this brochure you will find the proposals aimed at refreshing the educational activities, as well as the preliminary program of the 69° SIC Congress to be held in Rome from December 13th to December 16th 2008.

I wish that the scientific community will widely agree with my comments and that new issues may be proposed to SIC: they will be an invaluable help in favoring cultural growth as the ever-changing and challenging scenarios of modern time require.

Francesco Fedele
President
SIC Staff

Ad-hoc committees

CONGRESS COMMITTEE
Chairman
RAFFAELE BUGIARDINI

EDUCATION AND CME COMMITTEE
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Chairman
FRANCESCO FEDELE

THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY

The Italian Society of Cardiology adheres to the Italian Federation of Cardiology (FIC), whose role is: 1) to coordinate initiatives and projects in the cardiovascular field, 2) to present uniform position to regulatory authorities, and 3) to represent Italy in the international context. We wish FIC will become more and more an instrument to coordinate all Italian Cardiology groups.

A historical note

The Italian Society of Cardiology was officially born on March 20, 1956, when Luigi Condorelli as president and Vittorio Puddu as secretary signed the official act in front of a public notary. An Italian Cardiological Group, however, was active since 1935, thanks to a small group of pioneers which started regular meetings and publications focused on Heart Disease.

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FINSIC srl
a branch of SIC

Created years ago by SIC and recently updated (see article 14 of SIC statute), FINSIC is an operative financial branch aimed at supporting SIC in any institutional activity.

Once decisions have been taken by the SIC board, its financial branch will help organize the planned activities, and operates to promote communication and to spread information about the events. The FINSIC role, thus, is to implement congresses, meetings, seminars, and educational courses for continuing medical updating, and any other initiative useful to promote progress of Cardiology. In addition, FINSIC helps SIC with publishing journals, periodicals, books and audiovisual materials, promotes public relationships enhancement, and provides administrative and secretarial services.

Francesco Romeo
President of FINSIC

If I can stop one Heart from breaking I shall not live in vain.

Emily Dickinson
INTRODUCTION TO WORKING GROUPS

The Italian Society of Cardiology has generated 27 working groups. The functions of a working group are:

1. to promote and organize research in specific areas,
2. to favour information exchange,
3. to contribute to the organization of both the annual SIC congress and other meetings and symposia.

Each working group has a chairman, a nucleus and members selected for their competence in the field. The SIC website (www.sicardiologia.it) provides information on each group. All working groups submit an annual scientific report to the SIC board for approval.

Working groups can be contacted through the Scientific Secretariat (laura.stasi@sicardiologia.it)

Marco M. Ciccone
Chairman of working groups

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Keep love in your heart. A loveless life looks like a gloomy garden whose flowers are barren. The awareness of giving and receiving love contributes such a warmth and wealth to life as nothing else can do.

Oscar Wilde
ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY   I   2008

ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY

Hotel Cavalieri Hilton and Villa Miani
Rome, December 13/16 - 2008

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Raffaele Bugiardini  Chairman
Giuseppe Ambrosio
Luigi Pedetelli
Pasquale Perrone Filardi
Giuseppe Specchia
Cerredo Tamburino

CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Antonio Bartorelli
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Fiorenzo Gaita
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Eugenio Martuscelli
Mara Metro
Giuseppe Novelli
Salvatore Nova
Maria Penco
Susanna Sciomer
Gian Franco Sinagra
Paolo Voci

Arrhythmias
SYMPOSIUM
Atrial fibrillation in acute coronary syndrome
Sudden death in various pathological contexts: recognizing subjects at risk, selecting prevention strategies
Electrical treatment of heart failure: any doubt?
Radiofrequency ablation of cardiac arrhythmias: state of the art
MEET THE EXPERTS
Non pharmacological treatment of atrial fibrillation
EG: from old and recent interpretation problems to heart disease treatment
ITALIAN SPEAKER LECTURE
Wide QRS tachycardias

Cardiomyopathies
SYMPOSIUM
“Secondary” cardiomyopathies: from diagnosis to treatment
Clinical or molecular classification of cardiomyopathies?
Peculiar aspects of cardiomyopathies
FOREIGN SPEAKER LECTURE
Non-invasive risk stratification in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy

Cardiovascular Imaging
SYMPOSIUM
Myth and reality of echocardiography
The inducible ischemia. Which is the imaging test of choice?
Integrated imaging of coronary artery disease: differences and synergies
What is needed to start a clinical cardiac magnetic resonance imaging activity?
MEET THE EXPERTS
The ultrasonic coronary flow reserve: up-to-date and perspective
Imaging in cardiology: between established concepts and emerging news

Congenital Heart Disease, Pulmonary Circulation, Heart Valve Disease
SYMPOSIUM
Psychic and the heart
Current problems on aortic valve stenosis
Pregnancy and heart disease
Acute pulmonary thromboembolism

Coronary Artery Disease and Rehabilitation
SYMPOSIUM
coronary angiog-tc for diagnosis and clinical management of CAD patients
New invasive coronary imaging techniques: which choice?
Strategies for STEMI treatment
Mechanisms and mysteries of coronary artery disease in women
“Resistance” to antiplatelet drugs and acute coronary syndrome
Acute patient management in CCI: emergent problems
New scenarios in antiplatelet and anticoagulant treatment
Coronary syndromes: from research data to clinical application
Cardiovascular rehabilitation
Cardiovascular medicine and gender
Myocardial ischemia beyond coronary atherosclerotic plaque
MEET THE EXPERTS
Coronary artery disease
ITALIAN SPEAKERS LECTURES
Magnetic resonance imaging in acute myocardial infarction:
from pathophysiology to bedside
Vascular inflammation in acute coronary syndrome and in autoimmunede disease: a common substrate?
How to manage acute myocardial infarction in the absence of pharmacological or mechanical repoposition?
FOREIGN SPEAKERS LECTURES
Occluded artery trial (eat) and beyond
Hormones and heart disease: what do we know in 2008?
In search of vulnerable plaque. Can it be localized, and will focal therapy ever be an option?
New thoughts about anti-anginal and anti-ischemic therapy
Pre-hospital fibrinolysis versus primary PCI in STEMI

Education, Research, Telecardiology
SYMPOSIUM
Out-of-hospital electrical defibrillation
“Emergent” and “urgent” medicine: is job description necessary?
Medical information and mass media: a difficult balance
Telecardiology: instruction for use
ITALIAN SPEAKERS LECTURES
Evidence based medicine or educational based medicine
The “cultural” revolution of cardiology in the last half century
FOREIGN SPEAKER LECTURE
Using telemedicine for heart disease management

A heart is a non-marketable wealth: it can only be donated
Gustave Flaubert
Epidemiology, Cardiovascular Prevention, Pharmacology

SYMPOSIA
Prevention of coronary events recurrence
High risk patient management: a comparison among guidelines
Physical exercise and cardiovascular risk
Cardiovascular involvement in patients affected by collagen disease
The future of cardiometabolic risk
Cardiovascular toxic and malnutrition disease

FOREIGN SPEAKERS LECTURES
Serum amyloid: a new link between inflammation and thrombosis in coronary artery disease
Exercise and heart disease: why physical activity is essential?
Coronary atherothrombosis: progress in antiplatelet therapy

Genetics and Molecular Biology
SYMPOSIA
From genomics to pathophysiology of cardiovascular disease
Genetic polymorphism and cardiovascular disease
Treatment of heart failure: are human stem cells effectors or mediators?
Prognosis of diabetic patients with acute coronary syndrome: beyond coronary disease

SYMPOSIA
Cell-based therapy of myocardial infarction
Drug-eluting stent and coronary thrombosis: biological mechanisms and clinical implications
Peripheral Vessel Disease and Stroke
SYMPOSIA
The evaluation of preclinical atherosclerosis
The patient with both coronary artery disease and lower limb artery disease: diagnostic and therapeutic strategies
The aneurysms of thoracic aorta
Interventional hemodynamic phlebology

Heart Failure
SYMPOSIA
Heart-lung interaction: clinical problems
How to improve the prognosis of patients with heart failure?
Role of comorbidities in heart failure patients
Drug treatment of heart failure: insights into the future
Diastolic dysfunction in heart failure
Asymptomatic left ventricular dysfunction
Anticancer drugs and the heart

MEET THE EXPERTS
Heart failure

ITALIAN SPEAKERS LECTURES
Molecular mechanisms of cardiac remodelling

Hypertension
SYMPOSIA
Arterial (dis)function
Treatment of high cardiovascular risk patient: what have we learned from the most recent trials?
Hypertension and target organ damage
New clinical aspects in some forms of resistant hypertension

Interventional cardiology
SYMPOSIA
Controversies in coronary interventional cardiology
Drug eluting stents: are clinical indications still debated?
PCTA in acute myocardial infarction: looking for the best results
Stents: unconsidered aspects
Current problems in interventional cardiology
Risk of coronary stent thrombosis and antiplatelet treatment
Endothelial cells precursors (ECP)
Interventional cardiology: a suffering giant?
Primary prevention of coronary artery disease
PCTA or surgery?

MEET THE EXPERTS
Aortic stenosis: diagnostic and therapeutic item
Current problems in coronary interventional cardiology

FOREIGN SPEAKERS LECTURES
Drug-eluting stent and coronary thrombosis: biological mechanisms and clinical implications

Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart

Victor Hugo

The following Scholars have been nominated so far:

YEAR 2002:
Cristina Basso - University of Padua
Alfredo Ruggero Galassi - University of Catania
Nazzareno Galiè - University of Bologna
Silvio G. Prifti - University of Pavia

YEAR 2003:
Giuseppe Borini - University of Bologna
Aldo Linda P. Caserto - University of Padua
Paola Gallo - University of Naples
Marco Metra - University of Brescia

YEAR 2004:
Piergiuseppe Agostini - University of Milan
Cristina Chimienti - “Sapienza” University of Rome
Paola Voci - “Sapienza” University of Rome
Raffaele De Cateris - University of Chieti
Pasquale Perrone Filardi - “Federico II” University of Naples

YEAR 2005:
Gianluca Laizza - Catholic University of Rome “Sacra Cuore”
Giuseppe Rosano - Buxton University of London
Speranza Rubatto - “Sapienza” University of Rome

YEAR 2006:
Felicita Andreotti - Catholic University “Sacra Cuore” of Rome
Giovanni Esposito - “Federico II” University of Naples
Edoardo Bosso - Institute of Clinical Physiology “CNR” of Lecce

YEAR 2007:
Plinio Cillo - “Federico II” University of Naples
Massimo Pippa - Cardiac Center of Piacenza Hospital “Guglielmo da Saliceto”
EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHING MISSION

ECG DIAGNOSIS OF TACHYCARDIAS

A further educational project concerns a series of e-learning Courses for cardiologists available at the website www.sicardiologia.it. The first of these interactive Courses, dedicated to the ECG diagnosis of tachycardias is online, and is based on the study of 56 12-lead Electrocardiograms showing tachycardias, divided in 2 groups:
1) narrow QRS complex tachycardias;
2) wide QRS complex tachycardias.
The reader is firstly requested to provide a diagnosis for a series of 14 tracings, and is then enabled to read a detailed explanation of all cases. Thereafter, a further group of 14 tracings based on the same topic in presented, and again the diagnosis is solicited, and so on.

TEXTBOOK OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

The Board of the Italian Society of Cardiology is proud in presenting the new “Manuale di Malattie Cardiovascolari” (Textbook of Cardiovascular Disease) that is online at the website www.sicardiologia.it. This e-book is free for doctors and for medical students, and is made of 66 chapters, 3 atlases and more than 500 figures.
The book has been written by almost all Italian Professors of Cardiology, and is approached by hundreds of students every day; it is specifically aimed at facilitating learning Cardiovascular Medicine. We have defined this e-book as an endless “work in progress” since it is continuously updated as new concepts arise, or the Authors decide to modify the text and/or the illustrations.
This task is also facilitated by the readers, which are solicited to express their opinion on any chapter they are going through.
The Educational Committee of the Italian Society of Cardiology has made an effort in making the style of the various chapters as homogeneous as possible, so that the reader has the impression that the whole book has been written by a single Author.
The Italian Society of Cardiology wishes that other Medical Societies join the project of providing a free e-book specifically dedicated to medical students.

HEART MURMURS AND SOUNDS

The Educational Committee of the Italian Society of Cardiology wishes to point out that the stethoscope is still alive even in an era of advanced technology. We are planning to organize an e-learning program entitled “Heart murmurs and sounds” to reinforce the concept that auscultation of the heart is an irreplaceable clinical tool.

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL COURSES ON HEMODINAMIC PHLEBOLOGY

May 20th, June 10th and 24th 2008

The course has been performed at SIC headquarters in Rome by videoconference with the Regional Divisions. Theoretical lessons and practical exercises with the assistance of Doppler and echocolor-Doppler equipment were aimed at making participants to:
• Perform an instrumental examination of phlebopathic patients.
• Identify the most important vein diseases.
• Create a hemodinamic venous map to select the correct therapeutic strategy in a computerized system.

FELLOWSHIP IN ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY FOR DOCTORS SPECIALIZING IN CARDIOLOGY

September 16th, October 14th, November 18th 2008

In modern Cardiology, particularly in the field of interventional Cardiology and Arrhythmias, the education provided by Specialization Schools should be completed, especially in translating into clinical practice the guidelines concerning interventional electrophysiology and cardiac pacing. The Fellowship in Electrophysiology is aimed to the above purpose, and is addressed to doctors attending the last 2 years of Cardiology school.

REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

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If you want to be happy, listen to your heart as it encloses all the answers you are looking for.

Sergio Bambarrin

II LEVEL MASTER IN SPORT CARDIOLOGY
University of L’Aquila

- Aim of the Master is providing a deep qualification in this field, both for Cardiologists and Sport Physicians.
- Topics of the Master are cardiovascular adaptation to exercise in normal subjects, in athletes, and in extreme conditions; eligibility to sport activity and cardiovascular disease: cardiac arrhythmias, heart valve disease, hypertension, coronary artery disease, congenital heart disease, heart failure; clinical emergencies during sport activities.
- Admission requirement is to be Specialist in Sport Medicine or Cardiology.
- The Master will last 1 year and will start on January 2009.
- Application deadline is September 2008
- Information on www.univaq.it

II LEVEL MASTER IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN CARDIOLOGY
“Sapienza” University of Rome

- Aim of the Master is to fill the gap between the new technologies and their clinical and diagnostic applications.
- Topics of the Master: Anatomoy, Physiology, Cardiovascular Physics, Informatics, Statistics, Sociology, communication and information technology, new imaging techniques, simulation techniques.
- Admission requirement: Degree in Medicine, or Physics, Engineering, Informatics.
- The Master will last 1 year and will start on March 2009.
- Fee: 4.500,00 euro
- Application deadline: December 2008
- Information on www.uniroma1.it or contact Prof. E. Fedele francesco.fedele@uniroma1.it

II LEVEL MASTER IN VASCULAR DISEASE
University of Palermo

- Aim of the master is to create highly qualified expertise in the field of vascular disease, provided that no post-graduate School with European qualification is nowadays available in Italy on this topic.
- Topics: a) arterial disease of atherosclerotic origin, venous, venous and lymphatic disease; b) diagnostic tools: ABI, eccocardi/Doppler duplex scanning, laserdoppler, capillaroscopy, strain gauge plethysmography, MRR, CT scan, angiography and phlebography; c) treatment of vascular disease.
- Admission requirement is graduation in Medicine. Doctors working in the field of Cardiology or in internal medicine, geriatrics, vascular surgery, neurology are encouraged to join the master.
- Duration: the master lasts 2 years. The program includes 1500 hours of activity for year and will confer 120 credits.
- Starting: the master will start on June 1st, 2008
- Registration fee: 2.000,00 euro for each year.
- Application deadline: May 31st, 2008. The master will not be activated if the minimum number of participants is not attained.
- Information secretariat of the Department of Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular and Nephrological Diseases, Chair of Cardiovascular Disease, Tel. & Fax 091-655.43.01 091-655.444.43 Website: www.unipa.it, e-mail: novosav@unipa.it

II LEVEL MASTER IN ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY
University of Palermo

- Aim of the master is to provide a specific skill in performing and interpreting the echocardiogram, based on the most recent scientific and technological advances.
- Topics of the Master: indications to the echocardiographic examination, how to correctly perform a standard echocardiographic study according to european guidelines, how to interpret and report the echocardiogram, how to perform transesophageal and stress echocardiography.
- Admission requirement is graduation in Medicine. Doctors working in the field of Cardiology or in internal medicine, geriatrics, Sport medicine, and Emergency Care are encouraged to join the master.
- Duration: the master lasts 1 year. The program includes 1500 hours of activity: 300 hours of lectures and workshops, 400 hours of practical activity and 800 hours of self learning. It will confer 66 credits.
- Starting: the master will start on June 1st, 2008
- Registration fee: 2.000,00 euro
- Application deadline: May 31st, 2008. The master will not be activated if the minimum number of five participants is not attained.

SIC MASTERS

MASTER IN CARDIOVASCULAR PATHOLOGY
University of Padua

- Aim of the Master is to increase the knowledge in the field of anatomy and pathology of cardiovascular disease, from congenital to acquired conditions and from pathophysiology to basic sciences. In particular, it allows a trainee to learn the most important diagnostic methods in cardiovascular pathology (autopsy protocol and techniques, gross examination of heart specimens, histology, immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, histomorphometry, study of the conduction system, transmission and scanning electron microscopy, molecular pathology). Thanks to the close relationship between pathologists and clinicians, the teaching approach of this Master highlights anatomo-clinical correlations, leading to a correct interpretation of surgical pathology and autopsy findings.
- Topics of the master: pathomorphology and molecular pathology, clinical pathology, surgical pathology.
- Admission requirement are: graduation in medicine or in veterinary medicine Post-graduation in pathological anatomy or cardiology or forensic medicine or cardiac surgery are considered as prerequisites.
- The master will start on January 2009 and will last until December 2009.
- Application deadline is end of July 2008.
- The total fee is Euro 2.076,88
- Website: www.unipv.it/master/index.htm.
- For more information, please contact Prof. Cristina Basso (cristina.basso@unipv.it)

I LEVEL MASTER IN NURSING IN CARDIAC CRITICAL AREA
University of L’Aquila

- Aim of the Master is providing specific abilities concerning the Cardiac Critical Area, i.e. Coronary Care Unit, Post-Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac catheterization laboratories.
- Topics of the Master are: Scientific evidence and nursing research in cardiac critical area, Clinical Nursing in Intensive Care Cardiac Care Unit. Cardiovascular diagnostic tools, Cardiac nursing in out-of-hospital setting.
- Admission requirement is three year Nursing Degree or an equivalent qualification.
- The master will last 1 year and will start on January 2009.
- Application deadline is September 2008
- Information on www.univaq.it

II LEVEL MASTER IN INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY
“For Vergata” University of Rome

- Aim of the master training in Interventional Cardiology, a modern approach to treat cardiac disease, requiring postspecialist expertise.
- Topics: this II Level master introduces to all the aspects of Coronary, Valvular and Electrical percutaneous interventional therapies, with adequate training. Other techniques (Echo, Multislice CAF scanning, MRI Imaging) as well as Molecular Biology will be covered. The program is structured in two 6-month sessions, being the first one focused on: - Coronary Interventions: Materials, Methods, Results, Clinical trials; - Valvular interventions: Mitral, Aortic, Pulmonary Valveplasty and Replacement: Methods, Results, Clinical trials; - Closing Devices: Atrial Septal Defect/PFO, VSD, PDA: Methods, Results, Clinical trials; - The second session is focused on: - Percutaneous Interventions for arrhythmias and Pacing: Materials, Methods, Results and Clinical trials, with adequate training. Other techniques (Echo, Multislice CAF scanning, MRI Imaging) as well as Molecular Biology will be covered.
- Admission requirement: MD degree and specialization in Cardiology or Pediatrics.
- The master will last 1 year and will start on February 16th, 2009.
- Fee: 2.000,00 euro
- Application deadline: December 31, 2008

II LEVEL MASTER IN INTERVENTIONAL CARDIOLOGY
University of Palermo

- Aim of the master is providing a deep qualification in the field of cardiovascular disease, from congenital to acquired conditions and from pathophysiology to basic sciences. In particular, it allows a trainee to learn the most important diagnostic methods in cardiovascular pathology (autopsy protocol and techniques, gross examination of heart specimens, histology, immunohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, histomorphometry, study of the conduction system, transmission and scanning electron microscopy, molecular pathology). Thanks to the close relationship between pathologists and clinicians, the teaching approach of this Master highlights anatomo-clinical correlations, leading to a correct interpretation of surgical pathology and autopsy findings.
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- For more information, please contact Prof. Cristina Basso (cristina.basso@unipv.it)
Although there is little doubt that observational databases can characterize trends in management and patient outcome as well as identify prognostic factors, it remains controversial whether they can be used to evaluate therapy. Our view is that observational data bases should play an important role in therapy evaluation. By design, a data base is relatively nonselective, so that the entire spectrum of patients with disease is represented. Many patients included in a clinical data base would not be included in a randomized trial. In the Coronary Artery Surgery Study, for instance, only 13% of patients met all eligibility criteria for randomization, and only 4.2% of patients in the Duke Cardiovascular Disease Database met these same eligibility criteria. The broad spectrum of patients in a clinical data base permits analysis of subgroups excluded from, or poorly represented in, randomized studies. A number of observational studies published from registries have permitted invesivation of trends in patient management, and failure of the randomized treatment protocols, and included in observational studies published from registries have considerably enhanced the value of the overall investigation, including the evaluation of coronary bypass surgery efficacy in the elderly, in patients with poor left ventricular function and in those with acute coronary syndrome. An observational database is also helpful in providing corroborative evidence when randomized trial data are relatively sparse. In addition, observational databases can provide key contextual data for identifying patients with poor outcomes likely to benefit from therapy, as well as providing initial estimates of the therapy efficacy.

The Italian Society of Cardiology have produced a Center logs (CS-SIC) for the Study of arrhythmias, heart failure, and ischemic heart disease Preliminary data of the CS-SIC will be presented at the ESC Annual meeting 2008. The CS-SIC have evaluated the pharmaceutical prescriptions at 1 year follow-up of 4073 consecutive survivors from AMI discharged from 5 Italian hospitals between January 1st 2005 and December 31st, 2006. Use of lifesaving therapies for patients who survived AMI in Italy has been found much lower than expected in Europe, particularly in elderly patients and women. The CS-SIC warns that in Italy there is urgent need for development of procedures that would ensure adherence to a level of appropriate medical therapy for all survivors from AMI. The Italian Society of Cardiology is proud to announce that they will provide new tools to enhance professional development and multidisciplinary training at a local community hospital. A Joint Commission (SIC Health Care Government Department) Accreditation will operate as an independent, not-for-profit organization. Standards will be focused on patient assessment and care, patients’ rights, clinical ethics, organizational leadership, human resources management, and information management.

Nobody wants to forget the glorious “SIC et Simpliciter”, anyway some innovation in SIC newspaper was considered necessary. Aim of the new paper has been to start an interactive dialogue between SIC and “rest of the world”, including not only the scientific world, but a larger context. It’s time to recognize new interlocutors among national and international communities, as the Italian population, the Government, the Medical Institutions, the Media, Spreading out our ideas and comparing them with the others could achieve great results.
MISSION
The main Foundation commitment is to promote cardiovascular research through fund raising meant to:
• Awarding research projects of young researchers;
• Awarding fellowships of young cardiologists for periods of training in Italy or in Europe;
• Implementing educational campaigns on primary cardiovascular prevention promoting lifestyle changes, Mediterranean diet as well as smoking cessation. This will be achieved also through interaction with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Instruction to promote educational programs in Schools;
• Promoting educational campaigns focused on the right amount of drugs to be administered to cardiac patients in order to achieve secondary disease prevention. This target will be more easily got by implementing guidelines diffusion;
• Favouring sudden death prevention programs by increasing the number of BLS-D executors also in secondary Schools, in cooperation with the Ministry of Instruction;
• Participating in the organization of the World Day for the Heart promoted yearly by the World Heart Federation;
• Elaborating multicenter national or international studies;
• Promoting national registers on cardiovascular disease.

ACTIVITIES IN 2007/2008

AWARDS
Award of 20,000,00 Euro to Dr. Diego Colonna (Naples) for a project aimed at creating the first Italian Register on “Congenital Heart Disease in Adults”;
Award of 12,500,00 Euro to Dr. Francesco Borgia (Naples) to develop a research on “Power of fetal stem cells on myocardial regeneration”;
• EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FOR PREVENTION IN THE SCHOOL
A convention has been signed with the Ministry of Instruction aimed at: 1) diffusing the culture and practice of cardiovascular disease Primary Prevention in schools, and 2) creating a group of instructors for the diffusion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation skills (BLS-D). This target is likely to be achieved through cooperation with the Regional Offices of Ministry of Instruction and the Regional Sections of the Italian Society of Cardiology;
• EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS FOR CARDIOLOGISTS AND GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
1. National Educational Campaign on the “Importance of maintaining the therapeutic target in the secondary prevention of ischemic heart disease”;
2. National Educational Campaign on Secondary Prevention of ischemic Heart Disease named “Heart” between reason and emotion”, aimed at stressing not only the importance of drug therapy but also the role of diet and life style to maintain welfare;
3. National Educational Campaign named “From symptoms to treatment - a correct approach to the patient with heart disease”;
• PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE “HEART WORLD DAY”, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ITALIAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY
This is accomplished with 3 different items:
1. The University Cardiology Departments are open to the population for a charge-free cardiovascular examination;
2. Elderly people are examined free of charge by cardiologists at home;
3. State Men (Policemen, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza), undergo free clinical cardiovascular examination. During the above examinations, further information on cardiovascular prevention, risk factors, diet, lifestyle, physical activity, and how to perform a cardiopulmonary resuscitation while waiting for ambulance were provided by a DVD projection.
• COURSE ON CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION - BLS-D
In cooperation with the chair of Cardiovascular Disease, University of Padua, and the Palermo Rotary Club, that donated 3 automatic defibrillators, a Course was organized aimed at teaching people non-professionally involved in Medicine to perform BLS-D.

HEART WOMAN PROJECT
The “Italian Society of Cardiology and “ACAYA Formation and Health” Society have organized a cardiovascular risk assessment campaign for women aged between 40 and 60: a lot of IPER COOP centres in the whole country have become the gathering site for thousands of women to undergo a free cardiovascular screening consisting in a medical examination and a series of diagnostic investigations aimed to cardiovascular assessment and risk profile evaluation. The campaign started in September 2007 and it is going on in 2008.

AFRICA PROJECT
Since a few years the Italian Society of Cardiology supports the “ACAYA Formation and Health” Society for Italian fellows in cardiology in two developing countries, Mozambique and Uganda. The program is held at the Cardiology Department of the Eduardo Mondlane University of Maputo in Mozambique and at St Mary’s Lacor Hospital in Gulu, Uganda, which is one of the sites where Gulu University Medical School is located.

The Italian Society of Cardiology provides air tickets and personal insurance; lodging and meals are offered free of charge (Gulu) or at low cost (Maputo) by the local hospitals. This is a great 4-month experience for fellows who are involved in tropical cardiovascular disease and developing countries cardiovascular medicine. Both locations have reasonably good cardiological facilities with all non-invasive laboratories. Fellows are supervised by local and international medical staff. Up to now 11 fellows have been in Gulu (Uganda) and 6 in Maputo. All of them reported an enthusiastic experience both in human and professional terms. In Gulu the local new Medical Faculty is at its fourth year so that Italian fellows can share their experience with local students. In conclusion, the Italian Society of Cardiology offers young cardiologist fellows this unique experience to be shared, then back home, with the rest of the medical community.

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