



Università degli Studi  
di Messina



Accademia Peloritana  
dei Pericolanti



Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi  
ed Odontoiatri della  
provincia di Messina

# COPD

## RESEARCH DAY

2<sup>nd</sup> edition



Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2019

Excelsior Palace Hotel  
Taormina (Messina) Italy

## INTRODUCTION

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There are many reasons why chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) deserves to be high on the list of disease targets and research. COPD is still a major public health problem because it has a high prevalence and it is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide creating a formidable challenge for the health-care systems. COPD is one of the most frequent causes of unscheduled visits in the offices of general practitioners and specialists and of emergency ward visits and hospital admissions. Furthermore COPD, causes 3.2 millions of deaths worldwide and represents one of the top causes of death among the Italian population. In addition, COPD care, both directly and indirectly, uses a substantial amount of the resources of the Italian National Health Service, with a significant impact on social expenses. Despite recent trends in reduction of COPD standardized mortality rates and some recent successes in anti-smoking efforts in a number of Western countries, the demographic impact of ageing in an ever-expanding world population (around 7.3 billion in 2015), joined with other factors such as the high rates of smoking, will ensure that COPD will remain a challenge for clinicians within the 21st century epidemiologic point of view. For every COPD patient that physicians could avoid putting on a long-term ventilator this will save an enormous amount of money of the Italian National Health Service. Sicily has a passive (requests of being cured in other Italian regions) mobility of 6-8% of all Sicilian COPD patients. Current personalised treatment of COPD is unable to completely modify the natural history of the disease in its different and complex clinical phenotypes or to fully satisfy the expectations of the patients. In addition there are molecular links, still largely under investigated, between COPD, lung cancer and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) all tobacco smoking-related diseases but with different clinical-pathological expressions. It is particularly relevant that in a large longitudinal study of asymptomatic patients with mild-to-moderate COPD, ~33% of subjects died of lung cancer over ~15 years suggesting that lung cancer is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in COPD patients. These patients share a common environmental risk factor (smoking) and a genetic predisposition represented by the incidence of these diseases in only a fraction of smokers. Moreover there are no prognostic biomarkers to monitor the natural history of the disease in a simple and non-invasive way. For all these reasons, this annual meeting represents an important moment of discussion between Italian and International experts on the most recent available evidence on the molecular pathogenesis of COPD. The Pulmonology team together with the Clinical Pharmacology, Pathology and Thoracic Surgeons teams at the University Hospital Gaetano Martino of Messina, Italy wish to stay at the cutting edge of the COPD research with the aim of discovering new therapeutic targets and new prognostic biomarkers, which may in the future allow us to better control the disease.

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

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- 09.45 - 10.00 Registration of the participants
- 10.00 - 10.15 Opening speech by the organiser of the meeting
- 10.15 - 10.30 Opening speech by the Local Academic and Health Authorities  
*Ruggero Razza (tbc), Salvatore Cuzzocrea (tbc), Francesco Trimarchi, Giuseppe Laganga Senzio, Paolina Reitano, Giacomo Caudo*

**Chairs:** *Gaetano Caramori, Paolo Ruggeri, Edoardo Spina, Giovanni Tuccari*

### LECTURES

#### MORNING SESSION

- 10.30 - 11.15 **COPD diagnosis and unique pathways for disease progression**  
*James Crapo*
- 11.15 - 12.00 **Lung function and COPD phenotypes**  
*Vito Brusasco*
- 12.00 - 12.45 **Senescence in COPD**  
*Peter J Barnes*
- 12.45 - 13.30 **General debate on the topics discussed in the morning session**  
Discussant: *Paolo Ruggeri*
- 13.30 *Light lunch*
- 14.30 - 15.15 **The Sicilian integrated COPD research network of General Practitioners, Pharmacologists and Pulmonologists**  
*Gianluca Trifirò*
- 15.15 - 16.00 **Precision mucosal sampling to investigate airway inflammation in COPD**  
*Trevor Hansel*
- 16.00 - 16.45 **RNA binding proteins in the pathogenesis of stable COPD**  
*Cristiana Stellato*
- 16.45 - 17.30 **The Southern Italy integrated COPD research network of Pathologists, Pulmonologists and Thoracic Surgeons**  
*Antonio Ieni*
- 17.30 - 18.15 **New drugs under development for COPD**  
*Alex MacKay*
- 18.15 - 19.00 **General debate on the topics discussed**  
Discussant: *Irene Coppolino*
- 19.00 - 19.15 Conclusions by the Chairs
- 19.15 *Light refreshment*

## **ORGANISER**

**Gaetano Caramori**

*Full Professor of Respiratory Medicine, AOU Policlinico "G. Martino" Messina  
Dipartimento BIOMORF, Università di Messina, Italy*

## **LIFETIME HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE MEETING**

**Giuseppe Girbino**

*Former Full Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the University of Messina, Italy*

## **SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR**

**Paolo Ruggeri**

*Pneumologia, Dipartimento BIOMORF - Università di Messina, Italy*

## **FACULTY**

**Peter J Barnes, London, UK**

**Vito Brusasco, Genova, Italy**

**Gaetano Caramori, Messina, Italy**

**Giacomo Caudo, Messina, Italy**

**Irene Coppolino, Messina, Italy**

**James Crapo, Denver, Colorado, USA**

**Salvatore Cuzzocrea, Messina, Italy (tbc)**

**Giuseppe Girbino, Messina**

**Trevor Hansel, London, UK**

**Antonio Ieni, Messina, Italy**

**Giuseppe Laganga Senzio, Messina, Italy**

**Alex MacKay, London, UK**

**Ruggero Razza, Palermo, Italy (tbc)**

**Paolina Reitano, Messina, Italy**

**Paolo Ruggeri, Messina, Italy**

**Edoardo Spina, Messina, Italy**

**Cristiana Stellato, Salerno, Italy**

**Gianluca Trifirò, Messina, Italy**

**Francesco Trimarchi, Messina, Italy**

**Giovanni Tuccari, Messina, Italy**

## **LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN MEDICINE**

The event is part of CME programme of the Ministry of Health for 70 Medical Doctors, including all Specialities and General Medicine and Pharmacists.

**No. 9 CME Credits**

**WE GRATEFULLY RECOGNISE THAT THE EVENT HAS MADE POSSIBLE  
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**ORGANISING SECRETARIAT**

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