



Università degli Studi  
di Messina



Accademia Peloritana  
dei Pericolanti



Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi  
ed Odontoiatri  
della provincia di Messina

# COPD

## RESEARCH DAY

3<sup>rd</sup> edition



Friday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

Excelsior Palace Hotel  
Taormina (Messina), Italy  
[www.excelsiorpalacetaormina.it](http://www.excelsiorpalacetaormina.it)

Webinar: [www.gotomeeting.com](http://www.gotomeeting.com)

## INTRODUCTION

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 has an 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 wards visits and hospital admission. 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, use a substantial amount of the resources of 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 overarching 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 ([http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR\\_PORTALE](http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE)) 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 smoking-related disease 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 meeting will represent 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 at the University Hospital Gaetano Martino of Messina, Italy ([www.polime.it](http://www.polime.it)) 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

09.45 - 10.00 Registration of 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  
*Salvatore Cuzzocrea, Ruggero Razza, Giampiero Bonaccorsi, Antonino Levita, Francesco Trimarchi, Sergio Baldari*

### LECTURES

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

### MORNING SESSION

10.30 - 11.15 **Unmet needs in COPD research**  
*Richard Russell*

11.15 - 12.00 **Lung function and COPD phenotypes**  
*Vito Brusasco*

12.00 - 12.45 **Senescence and COPD**  
*Peter J. Barnes*

12.45 - 13.15 **General debate on the topics discussed in the morning session**  
Discussant: *Paolo Ruggeri*

13.15 *Light lunch*

### AFTERNOON SESSION

14.30 - 15.15 **COPD clinical outcomes: are we reaching for all of them the minimal clinically important differences?**  
*Fernando J. Martinez*

15.15 - 16.00 **Novel methods of airway mucosal sampling to study inflammatory airway diseases**  
*Trevor Hansel*

16.00 - 16.45 **RNA binding proteins in the pathogenesis of stable COPD and lung cancer**  
*Cristiana Stellato and Vincenzo Casolaro*

16.45 - 17.30 **Ongoing COPD research initiatives in Messina**  
*Antonio Ieni and Gianluca Trifirò*

17.30 - 18.15 **Novel drug targets in pre-clinical development for COPD**  
*Ian Adcock*

18.15-19.00 **General debate on the topics discussed and Conclusions by the Chairs**  
Discussant: *Francesco Nucera*



## ORGANISER

**Gaetano Caramori**

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

## LIFETIME HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE MEETING

**Giuseppe Girbino**

*Formerly Full Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the Università di Messina, Italy*

## SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS

**Paolo Ruggeri and Francesco Nucera**

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

## FACULTY

**Ian M. Adcock, London, UK**

**Sergio Baldari, Messina, Italy**

**Peter J. Barnes, London, UK**

**Giampiero Bonaccorsi, Messina, Italy**

**Vito Brusasco, Genova, Italy**

**Gaetano Caramori, Messina, Italy**

**Vincenzo Casolaro, Salerno, Italy**

**Salvatore Cuzzocrea, Messina, Italy**

**Giuseppe Girbino, Messina, Italy**

**Trevor Hansel, London, UK**

**Antonio Ieni, Messina, Italy**

**Fernando José Martinez, New York, USA**

**Francesco Nucera, Messina, Italy**

**Ruggero Razza, Palermo, Italy**

**Paolo Ruggeri, Messina, Italy**

**Richard Russell, Oxford, UK**

**Antonino Levita, Messina, Italy**

**Edoardo Spina, Messina, Italy**

**Cristiana Stellato, Salerno, Italy**

**Gianluca Trifirò, Messina, Italy**

**Francesco Trimarchi, Messina, Italy**

**Giovanni Tuccari, Messina, Italy**

## CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

The event is part of the Continuing Medical Education (CME) program of the Ministry of Health for 100 participants.

**No. 8 CME Credits**

The event will also be available in FAD Synchronous mode (videoconference). Who wants to use this mode must send a request to the Organizing Secretariat.

This meeting is part of the teaching activities of the students of the International PhD Translational Molecular Medicine and Surgery and of the teaching activities in Respiratory Diseases of the residents of the Specialisation Schools of the University of Messina, Italy.

**WE GRATEFULLY RECOGNISE THAT THE EVENT HAS MADE POSSIBLE  
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## ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

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