



Università degli Studi  
di Messina



Accademia Peloritana  
dei Pericolanti

# COPD

## RESEARCH DAY

4<sup>th</sup> edition



Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2021

**Excelsior Palace Hotel**

Taormina (Messina), Italy

[www.excelsiorpalacetaormina.it](http://www.excelsiorpalacetaormina.it)

The meeting will follow the National and Regional rules on  
scientific meetings at that time

Organised by Professor Gaetano Caramori, 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 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, uses 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 7.8 billion in April 2021), 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 Academic Pulmonology team at the University of Messina, Italy ([www.unime.it](http://www.unime.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

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09.45 - 10.00 Registration of participants

10.00 - 10.30 Opening speech by the Local Academic Authorities

### Lectures

Chairs: *Gaetano Caramori, Edoardo Spina, Francesco Trimarchi*

### Morning session

10.30 - 11.15 Key clinical messages learned from prospective studies of large COPD cohorts  
*James Crapo*

11.15 - 12.00 What clinical messages can we learn from studies of small airway function  
*Vito Brusasco*

12.00 - 12.45 Senescence in COPD  
*Peter J Barnes*

12.45 - 13.15 General debate on the topics discussed in the morning session  
Discussant: *Francesco Nucera*

13.15 - 14.30 *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 Recent advances on the pathogenesis of respiratory viral infections  
*Trevor Hansel*

16.00 - 16.30 B and T-cells mediated autoimmune responses in COPD patients  
*Vincenzo Casolaro*

16.30 - 17.00 RNA binding proteins in the pathogenesis of stable COPD and lung cancer  
*Cristiana Stellato*

17.00 - 17.30 Autophagy in the pathogenesis of stable COPD: lung parenchyma data  
*Antonio Ieni*

17.30 - 18.00 Lung health in a cohort of adolescents  
*Massimo Guerriero*

18.00 - 18.45 New potential drug targets for stable and exacerbated COPD patients  
*Ian Adcock*

18.45 - 19.30 General debate on the topics discussed and Conclusions by the Chairs  
Discussants: *Leandro Castellano* and *Ilaria Salvato*

## ORGANISER

**Gaetano Caramori**, *Messina, Italy*

## LIFETIME HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE MEETING

**Giuseppe Girbino**, *Messina, Italy*

## SCIENTIFIC COORDINATORS

**Paolo Ruggeri, Iliaria Salvato** and **Francesco Nucera**, *Messina, Italy*

## FACULTY

<b>Ian M. Adcock</b> , <i>London, UK</i>	<b>Massimo Guerriero</b> , <i>Verona, Italy</i>
<b>Sergio Baldari</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>	<b>Trevor Hansel</b> , <i>London, UK</i>
<b>Peter J. Barnes</b> , <i>London, UK</i>	<b>Antonio Ieni</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>
<b>Vito Brusasco</b> , <i>Genova, Italy</i>	<b>Fernando José Martinez</b> , <i>New York, USA</i>
<b>Gaetano Caramori</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>	<b>Francesco Nucera</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>
<b>Vincenzo Casolaro</b> , <i>Salerno, Italy</i>	<b>Iliaria Salvato</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>
<b>Leandro Castellano</b> , <i>London, UK</i>	<b>Edoardo Spina</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>
<b>James Crapo</b> , <i>Englewood, CO, USA</i>	<b>Cristiana Stellato</b> , <i>Salerno, Italy</i>
<b>Salvatore Cuzzocrea</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>	<b>Francesco Trimarchi</b> , <i>Messina, Italy</i>

## LIFE-LONG LEARNING IN MEDICINE

The event is part of CME program of the Ministry of Health for 50 participants. This meeting is part of the teaching activities of the students of the International PhD Translational Molecular Medicine and Surgery of the University of Messina, Italy and of the residents of the specialisation schools of the University of Messina, Italy

## UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

Accademia Peloritana dei Pericolanti (<http://www.accademiapeloritana.it/EN/>)  
University of Messina, Italy ([www.unime.it](http://www.unime.it))

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## ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT

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