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Fulvio Braidò *(Genova)*

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Cecilia Calabrese *(Napoli)*

Raffaele Campisi *(Catania)*

Annalisa Carlucci *(Lecce)*

Mauro Carone *(Foggia)*

Giovanna Elisiana Carpagnano *(Bari)*

Antonella Cianferoni *(Philadelphia)*

Claudia Crimi *(Catania)*

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Mariella D'amato *(Napoli)*

Aikaterini Detoraky *(Napoli)*

Danilo Di Bona *(Bari)*

Maria Pia Foschino Barbaro *(Foggia)*

Donato Lacedonia *(Foggia)*

Francesca Levi-Schaffer *(Gerusalemme)*

Josè Luis Lopes-Campos *(Siviglia)*

Luigi Macchia *(Bari)*

Angelantonio Maglio *(Salerno)*

Gianni Marone *(Napoli)*

Serafino Antonio Marsico *(Napoli)*

Parameswaran Nair *(Hamilton (Canada))*

Santi Nolasco *(Catania)*

Dario Olivieri *(Parma)*

Elisabetta Pace *(Palermo)*

Corrado Pelaia *(Catanzaro)*

Girolamo Pelaia *(Catanzaro)*

Pietro Pirina *(Sassari)*

Celeste Porsbjerg *(Copenaghen)*

Stefania Principe *(Amsterdam)*

Vitaliano Quaranta *(Bari)*

Paolo Ruggeri *(Messina)*

Nicola Scichilone *(Palermo)*

Giulia Scioscia *(Foggia)*

Giuseppe Spadaro *(Napoli)*

Alessandra Tomasello *(Palermo)*

Massimo Triggiani *(Napoli)*

Giuseppe Valenti *(Palermo)*

Carlo Vancheri *(Catania)*

Gilda Varricchi *(Napoli)*

Alessandro Vatrella *(Salerno)*

Chirstian J. Virchow *(Rostock)*

General Information

Presidents

Nunzio Crimi, Catania
Nicola Scichilone, Palermo

Scientific Secretariat

Alida Benfante, Palermo

Life-Long Learning in Medicine

The meeting will be part of the CME program of the Ministry of Health
for 100 participants.
No. 13 CME Credits.

CME Provider

Formazione e Cultura Srl
ID 2635

Congress Venue

Circolo Unificato dell'Esercito di Palermo
(ex Circolo degli Ufficiali)
Piazza Sant'Oliva n. 25
90141 Palermo

With the unrestricted educational grant provided by



Organizing Secretariat



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**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**

VII ANNUAL MEETING OF SOUTHERN ITALY NETWORK ON SEVERE ASTHMA THERAPY

9th-10th October 2026

**Circolo Unificato
dell'Esercito
Palermo, Italy**



Introduction

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Palermo, Italy, for the seventh meeting of the “Southern Italy Network on Severe Asthma Therapy”, which will take place on October 9 and 10, 2026.

This meeting brings together experts from around the world to advance our understanding of the most challenging forms of asthma. Throughout this scientific event, we aim to:

- disseminate research findings obtained from real-world clinical trials to the scientific community;
- share new proposals and protocols for the appropriate use of inhaled and biological therapies in patients with severe asthma;
- provide updates on current and future therapeutic options for severe asthma.

A particular focus will be dedicated to the management of nasal polyps, EGPA, and COPD.

Beyond its scientific value, this event presents a unique opportunity to strengthen collaborations and share experiences among the founding centers of the network, fostering the growth of our scientific and professional community.

Finally, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the international guests who kindly accepted our invitation to be active part of this exciting meeting, and to all speakers and participants who will certainly contribute to making it productive and enjoyable.

A warm thank you to the sponsors who have made this congress possible.

Prof. Nunzio Crimi
Prof. Nicola Scichilone

Friday 09th of October 2026

- 08:00 Registration
- 08:30 Opening welcome and introduction *Nunzio Crimi – Nicola Scichilone*
- 09:00 Introduction to the meeting *Alida Benfante*
- 09:20 New protocol proposal of Southern Italy Network on Severe Asthma Therapy
Chair: *Alida Benfante - Raffaele Campisi - Santi Nolasco*

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- SESSION I: THE MODERN VISION OF SEVERE ASTHMA
Chair: *Maria Pia Foschino Barbaro – Serafino Marsico – Dario Olivieri*
- 10:20 Disease activity versus damage: the conceptual framework of asthma
Celeste Porsbjerg
 - 10:40 The current challenges of severe asthma: what do we learn from the European registries? *Stefania Principe*
 - 11:00 Is severe asthma a mild disease gone bad? *Nicola Scichilone*
 - 11:20 Question & Answer about the topics discussed

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- SESSION II: ADVANCES IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF SEVERE ASTHMA
Chair: *Cecilia Calabrese – Giuseppe Spadaro – Carlo Vancheri*
- 11:40 Airway epithelial cells as drivers of severe asthma pathogenesis *Gianni Marone*
 - 12:00 Interactions between mast cells and eosinophils *Francesca Levi-Schaffer*
 - 12:20 Non-T2 asthma: is inflammasome a potential target? *Parameswaran Nair*
 - 12:40 Question & Answer about the topics discussed
 - 13:00 Lunch

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- SESSION III: MULTIFACETED CLINICAL APPEARANCE OF SEVERE ASTHMA
Chair: *Salvatore Battaglia – Mauro Carone – Vitaliano Quaranta*
- 14:00 The CORE syndrome (OSA, GERD and nasal polyps): is it worth investigating? *Giulia Scioscia*
 - 14:20 Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and Bronchial Asthma: Current Challenges *Josè Luis Lopes-Campos*
 - 14:40 EGPA: when does it become mandatory diagnosing it? *Danilo Di Bona*
 - 15:00 The impact of bronchiectasis on severe asthma and the role of neutrophilic inflammation *Claudia Crimi*
 - 15:20 Question & Answer about the topics discussed
 - 15:40 Coffee break

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- SESSION IV: ADVANCES IN TREATMENT OF SEVERE ASTHMA (PART I)
Chair: *Annalisa Carlucci – Aikaterini Detoraky – Luigi Macchia*
- 16:00 Dual biologic therapy in severe asthma: the rationale behind it *Massimo Triggiani*
 - 16:20 The advent of biosimilars in a changing world *Fulvio Braidò*
 - 16:40 Food allergy management in severe asthma *Antonella Cianferoni*

- 17:00 Question & Answer about the topics discussed
- 17:20 THE CHALLENGES OF LIVING WITH SEVERE ASTHMA: collaboration between academic scientists and patient representatives in the development of novel strategies for the management of severe asthma (Federasma-APACS)
Chair: *Nunzio Crimi – Maria Pia Foschino*
- 18:00 Sharing breaking news from Pharma Industry scientists: do we need new drugs or new strategies?
Chair: *Elisiana Carpagnano – Nunzio Crimi – Girolamo Pelaia
Alessandro Vatrella – Nicola Scichilone*

Saturday 10th of October 2026

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- SESSION V: ADVANCES IN TREATMENT OF SEVERE ASTHMA (PART II)
Chair: *Alida Benfante – Pietro Pirina – Giuseppe Valenti*
- 08:30 Treating acute eosinophilic exacerbations of asthma (and COPD) with biologic drug: a new window of opportunity? *Elisiana Carpagnano*
 - 08:50 Biological Therapy of severe Asthma: Choice criteria for precision therapy *Alessandro Vatrella*
 - 09:10 Impact of Antihyperglycemic Drugs on Asthma Outcomes *Katherine Cahill*
 - 09:30 Question & Answer about the topics discussed

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- SESSION VI: PROPOSED STRATEGIES IN THE TREATMENT OF SEVERE ASTHMA
Chair: *Elisabeta Pace – Donato Lacedonia – Angelantonio Maglio*
- 09:50 Biologics in mild to moderate asthma to prevent progression *Alessandra Tomasello*
 - 10:10 Can we achieve remission with inhaled treatment? *Maria D'Amato*
 - 10:30 De-escalation versus stepping-down of maintenance treatment *Alida Benfante*
 - 10:50 Controlling sinusitis to control severe asthma *Corrado Pelaia*
 - 11:10 Question & Answer about the topics discussed
 - 11:30 Coffee break

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- SESSION VII: BIOLOGICS IN COPD
Chairs: *Paolo Ruggeri – Nicola Scichilone – Alessandro Vatrella*
- 11:55 Type 2 cytokines and alarmins have a role in COPD *Gilda Varricchi*
 - 12:15 COPD patients are candidates for biologics
Yes: *Pelaia Girolamo*
No: *Virchow Christian*
 - 12:50 Rebuttals *Nunzio Crimi – Nicola Scichilone*
 - 13:15 Open discussion on all topics covered during the congress
 - 13:30 End and Farewell *Alida Benfante - Nunzio Crimi – Nicola Scichilone*