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Foreword

Conference Chairperson

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I am delighted to extend a very warm welcome to all our eminent guests, invited speakers and registrants both local and overseas to the IX Malta Medical School Conference.

This triennial conference has become a regular feature in the Malta Medical School Programme and is now in its 26th year. It is the major academic activity of the Medical School outside the formal teaching programme. It has evolved over the years since its inception in 1989 and its success and popularity have increased due to the tireless work and dedication of various people.

This year's conference will follow the general format of the previous conferences in that it is a compilation of multidisciplinary sessions and plenary lectures. This year over 900 abstracts were submitted, 200 more than in the last edition. This confirms the extent and quality of ongoing academic activity taking place locally in the various disciplines as well as the growing popularity of this triennial event.

The large number of submissions has made the work of our Scientific Committee, most ably chaired by Professor S Montefort, more arduous than before and it necessitated that we have 6 parallel sessions running concurrently throughout the whole three day programme to give adequate exposure to all our participants. The Scientific Committee have produced a vibrant and exciting scientific programme.

This is my second term as Chairman of the Malta Medical School Conference and once again I was very fortunate to have a dedicated team of colleagues who worked assiduously together over the last twenty months. Their enthusiastic and passionate support has made this event possible. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their sterling work and support throughout.

I must also thank all the Pharmaceutical Exhibitors and Conference Sponsors without whose financial support this event would have been impossible. Invaluable help has also been provided by Ms Zvetlana Zerafa, Conference Secretary, the staff at the Medical School competently lead by Ms Doris Mangion and various other individuals who supported and helped us with organising this event. For this I thank them.

A particular word of thanks goes to Professor Godfrey Laferla, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery for his continuous support and encouragement.

Last but not least I would like to thank you, the participants, who will be joining us in this event. May I wish you all an enjoyable conference.



Dr. Raymond Galea

M.D., F.R.C.O.G., Acc. Spec. O&G (Leuv.), Ph.D., K.M.
Chairperson

Foreword

Chairperson, Scientific Committee

I was very pleased to be appointed chairman of the scientific committee of the ninth Malta Medical school conference for the second time running. This me gave the opportunity to continue with the successful format that we had set in the last conference and also allowed me to collaborate with a number of reputable clinicians and scientists forming part of this illustrious committee.

Once again the response to our call for papers was very well received with a record number of submissions – well over 900. This is witness to the wealth of research activity going on in our Alma Mater and the quality of the studies submitted confirms that our Medical School and its members are on the right track. Due to the overwhelming response from the participants we had no option but to increase the number of oral and poster sessions within the scientific programme. A number of oral presentation sessions will be initiated and co-chaired by illustrious guest speakers who are internationally renowned, with a good number of them being fellow Maltese clinicians who have made a name for themselves and our country abroad. The conference will also host six varied plenary lectures delivered by very distinguished speakers who will honour us with presence.

The format of the discussed poster sessions introduced during the last conference was very well received and has been retained as this offers a great chance for our up and coming doctors and their work to get the exposure that they deserve. We are also pleased that work from our sister faculties of Health Sciences and Dentistry have been submitted and will be presented in sessions which are in conjunction with those from the Medical School. Such co-ordinated sessions will lead to increased collaboration in research among the various fields of Medicine.

In conclusion I hope these changes will be to the satisfaction of the majority. I wish all of you three interesting days at this much awaited conference which will hopefully continue running in this successful manner for years to come.



Professor Stephen Montefort

M.D., Ph.D.(Soton.), F.R.C.P.(Lond.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.),
F.R.C.P.(Glas.), F.A.C.P., F.E.F.I.M., F.C.C.P.
Chairperson, Scientific Committee

Welcome from the Dean

This is ninth edition of the Malta Medical School Conference since 1988. The Conference has been growing from strength to strength with over 900 contributions are being showcased this year. A large majority of these are authored by Maltese researchers.

I am proud of the fact that over the past few years the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery has invested heavily in promoting and encouraging our scientists. This support is not only financial but includes upgrading of facilities. The increase in the number of students following PhD studies within the Faculty is evidence that this strategy is bearing fruit.

Although we are fortunate to be living in the digital era where communication barriers are virtually non-existent, the need for exposure, the need for discourse and sharing of experience and ideas with our counterparts from around the world, is of primary importance. This was the original purpose of this Conference.

I take this opportunity to warmly greet our international guests and colleagues who have come over specifically to share their vast experience in their respective fields with us. This will ensure that our medical standards remain at par with the best.

Getting together such a large gathering of medical and surgical specialists would not be possible without the unstinting work of our Organising Committee to whom I extend my most sincere thanks. Thanks must also go to all our sponsors without whose backing this triennial Conference would not be possible.

Last, but most assuredly not least, my thanks to the Medical fraternity whose participation and continuous encouragement make such events possible.

I wish the Ninth Malta Medical School Conference every success.



Professor Godfrey Laferla

M.D., Ph.D.(Glas.), M.R.C.S.(Eng.), L.R.C.P.(Lond.),
F.R.C.S.(Edin.), F.R.C.S.R.C.P.S.(Glas.), F.R.C.S.(Eng.)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

Detailed Scientific Programme

Thursday 3rd December

7:30 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:45 **Welcome**
Dr. R Galea
Chairman IX Malta Medical School Conference

H.E. Mary Louise Coleiro Preca
President of the Republic of Malta

Plenary I

Chairpersons: *R Galea*
The nature and nurture
of professional excellence
I. Curran

09:45 – 10:15 **Coffee Break and Exhibitors**

Parallel Session 1

10:15-11:30 **Session 1A**
Clinical Pharmacy

Chairpersons: *A Lau, LM Azzopardi*

OP1.01 Contemporary clinical pharmacy practice and education
Alan Lau

OP1.02 Pharmacist-led personalisation of antiplatelet therapy
Francesca Wirth, Graziella Zahra, Robert G Xuereb, Christopher Barbara, Albert Fenech, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP1.03 Clinical implementation of the rheumatoid arthritis medication assessment tool – RhMAT
Louise Grech, Victor Ferrito, Liberato Camilleri, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP1.04 Assessing the perception and awareness of clinicians on biosimilars
Kathlene Cassar, David Zammit Dimech, Louise Grech, Dustin Balzan, Anthony Cutajar, Paul John Cassar

OP1.05 Chronopharmacology in hypertension – valsartan and amlodipine administration
Sephora Falzon, Louise Grech, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian Azzopardi

10:15 – 11:30 **Session 1B**
Gastroenterology, Surgery

Chairpersons: *M Vassallo, A Cuschieri*

OP1.06 The role of biomarkers in determining clinical activity in inflammatory bowel disease
Nicholas Paul Delicata, Neville Azzopardi, Pierre Ellul

OP1.07 Upper gastrointestinal malignancy - a losing battle?
Maria Petra Agius, Marc Gingell Littlejohn, Jo Etienne Abela

OP1.08 Columnar-lined oesophagus and oesophageal cancer in Malta - results from the first national patient registry
Rebecca Dalli, John Schembri, Alex Attard, Mario Vassallo, Pierre Ellul, James Pocock, James Degeatano, JoEtienne Abela

OP1.09 Pregnancy outcomes in female patients with inflammatory bowel disease
Stefania Chetcuti Zammit, Mandy Caruana, Konstantinos Katsanos, Gerassimos Mantzaris, Monica Cesarini, Uri Kopylov, Louise Zammit, Godfrey LaFerla, Pierre Ellul

OP1.10 To assess the value of blue dye and radiological contrast tests after major oesophago-gastric and duodenal surgery
Maria Petra Agius, Kristian Micallef, Andre Navarro, Jo Etienne Abela

OP1.11 Cystic lesions of the pancreas: need for local guidelines?

Julia Gauci, Kelvin Cortis, Neville Azzopardi

OP1.12 Temporal trends in the epidemiology, management and outcomes of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma in Malta

James Gauci, Martina Muscat, Jonathan Gauci, Samuel Galea, Martina Wismayer, Richard Pullicino, Kelvin Cortis, Jurgen Gerada

10:15 – 11:30 **Session 1C
Paediatrics**

Chairpersons: *V Grech, S Attard Montalto*

OP1.13 Group B Streptococcal Disease in infants in Malta

Mandy Caruana, David Pace

OP1.14 Body maps and proformas in Safeguarding: ensuring best practice

Kevin Borg, Manjari Tanwar, Mariella Mangion, Deborah Hodes

OP1.15 Additional 2D ultrasound views enhance the detection of congenital heart disease in the second trimester

Maria Anna Zammit, Victor Grech, Miriam Gatt, Simon Attard Montalto

OP1.16 Introduction of a blood-spot screening programme for neonatal thyroid disease: Impact on safety and cost-effectiveness.

Ryan Farrugia, Jelena Martic, Tara Grima, Paul Soler

OP1.17 The clinical burden of Phenylketonuria in a Maltese cohort

Stephen Attard, Simon Attard Montalto

OP1.18 'You have to experience it...to truly understand it' The voices of Maltese parents raising young children born with intellectual disability risks: Emotional needs

Elayne Azzopardi, Jois Stansfield, Julie Marshall

OP1.19 Paediatric Emergency Severity Index and Time of First Medical Contact

Paul Torpiano, David Cini, Paul Soler

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1D
Cardiology**

Chairpersons: *S. Chetcuti, R. Xuereb*

OP1.20 Door-to-balloon time in ST segment elevation myocardial infarction at Mater Dei Hospital

John Bonello, Maria Farrugia, Philip Dingli

OP1.21 Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) Related Morbidity and Mortality

Elton Pllaha, Matthew Mercieca Balbi, Alice May Moore, Kentaro Yamagata, Sara Xuereb, Matthew Bonello, Karl Camilleri, Richard Apap Bologna, Jeremy Fleri Soler, Robert George Xuereb

OP1.22 Prognostic indicators and risk estimation of ten-year and twenty-year mortality following acute coronary syndrome

Caroline Jane Magri, Roberto Debono, Neville Calleja, Joseph Galea, Stephen Fava

OP1.23 Red blood cell distribution width & myocardial scar burden in coronary artery disease

Caroline Jane Magri, Tan Xiao Tian, Liberato Camilleri, Robert G. Xuereb, Joseph Galea, Stephen Fava

OP1.24 The role of HIF-1 α , VEGF and Obstructive Sleep Apnoea in the Development of Coronary Collateral Circulation

Mark Abela, Andrew Cassar, Graziella Zahra, Philip Dingli, Elton Pllaha, Chris Deguara, Stephen Montefort

OP1.25 Closing the audit cycle: Have cardiovascular risk assessment and management in rheumatoid arthritis patients improved?

Rosalie Magro, Kyra Bartolo, Roberto Corso, Malcolm Buhagiar, Nikita Taliana, Andrew Borg

OP1.26 Estimation of Ejection Fraction by Ventriculography vs Echocardiography: A comparative study

Elton Pllaha, Alexander Manche', Richard Pullicino

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1E**
Medical Education,
Medical Ethics

Chairpersons: *P. Mallia, T. Piscopo*

OP1.27 Research Access and Involvement among Maltese doctors – a cross sectional study
Jacob Vella

OP1.28 e-Portfolio for postgraduate medical training: the Malta experience
Raymond Galea, Fabio Bajada, Emanuel Gatt

OP1.29 Is foundation training in Malta and the United Kingdom truly equivalent?
Samuel Debono, Arlette Marie Vassallo, Edward Joseph Caruana

OP1.30 Are medical graduates able to perform basic practical procedures?
Rebecca Amy Stoner, Edward Joseph Caruana

OP1.31 End of Life decisions by doctors: a national cross-sectional survey on views and experiences.
Jurgen Abela

OP1.32 An Art and medicine experiential learning laboratory in the Middle East to measure interdisciplinary problem-solving
Alan Weber, Stephen Scott, Thomas Himsworth, Amy Andres

OP1.33 The elicitation of Jung's shadow in Star Trek
Victor Grech

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1F**
Molecular Sciences I

Chairpersons: *G. Grech, A.G. Fenech*

OP1.34 N-acetylaspartate (NAA) induces neuronal differentiation: a possible escape from neuroblastoma tumor
Carmela Mazzoccoli, Ruggieri Vitalba, Francesca Agriesti, Tiziana Tataranni, Ilaria Laurenzana, Claudia Piccoli

OP1.35 Effects of tumour suppressor gene 101 perturbation on T cell synaptic ectosomes and B cell activation
David George Saliba, Michael L Dustin

OP1.36 Camptothec in analogues and sirtuin inhibitors induce differentiation of HL-60 acute myeloid leukaemia cells *in vitro*
Sarah Bugeja Kissaun, Dale Brincat, Gianluca Maresca, Darren Micallef, Samuel Zahra, Laura Krasnova, Daniele Passarella, Pierre Schembri Wismayer

OP1.37 Investigation of antimicrobial activity of restorative materials in relation to material properties and methods used for antimicrobial activity assessment
Cher Farrugia, Julie Haider, Liberato Camilleri, Josette Camilleri

OP1.38 Multi-scale genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic analysis of colorectal cancer cell lines to identify novel biomarkers
Romina Briffa, Godfrey Grech, Inhwa Um, Dana Faratian, Ying Zhou, Simon P Langdon, David J Harrison

OP1.39 Mutational analysis of c-KIT and PDGFRA in GIST cases diagnosed locally
Charlene Busuttill, Maria Masini, Christian Saliba, Sharon Falzon, Godfrey Grech, James Degaetano

OP1.40 CYP2C19 loss-of-function *2 allele and coronary in-stent restenosis
Francesca Wirth, Graziella Zahra, Robert G Xuereb, Christopher Barbara, Albert Fenech, Lilian M Azzopardi

Parallel Session 2

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2A: Imaging**

Chairpersons: *G. Storto, A.Mizzi*

OP2.01 Diagnostic-therapeutic imaging through nuclear medicine: still discovering the egg of Columbus?
Giovanni Storto

OP2.02 CT examination of the abdomen and pelvis as a first-line investigation for iron deficiency anaemia – a study of local practice and diagnostic outcome
Lara Sammut, Kristian Micallef, Adrian Mizzi

OP2.03 Adequacy of ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) of thyroid nodules
Christine Jo Cannataci, Reuben Grech

OP2.04 A study of the efficacy of axillary ultrasound in nodal staging in symptomatic breast cancer

Elaine Borg, John Agius, Jessica Muscat, Gordon Caruana Dingli, Salvina Zrinzo, Joseph Debono

OP2.05 Outcomes of endovascular treatment of critical ischaemia in the Maltese population

Ian Said, Adrian Mizzi, Kenneth Saliba, Kevin Cassar

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2B**
Pharmacy Practice

Chairpersons: *A. Serracino Inglott, M. Zarb Adami*

OP2.06 Physician and pharmacist perception on risks associated with potential antibiotic prescribing by pharmacists

Maresca Attard Pizzuto, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP2.07 Pharmacist prescribing

Abigail Aquilina, Louise Grech, Lilian Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.08 Drug induced effects and hospital admissions

Nicola Farrugia, Lilian Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.09 A cross-sectional analysis of drug-drug interactions retrieved from the medications of patients on presentation at an out-patient hospital pharmacy

Denise Borg, Sara Jo Cassar, Anthony Cutajar

OP2.10 Pharmacist intervention in medication reconciliation during transfer of care

Tresha Emelene Formosa, Lilian M Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.11 Association of medicinals to sleep apnoea

Yanica Cassar, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Stephen Montefort, Christopher Deguara, Lilian Azzopardi

OP2.12 Formulary for non-British National Formulary (BNF) cited items

Timothy Scicluna, Lilian Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino Inglott

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2C**
Air Quality

Chairpersons: *G. Viegi, S. Montefort*

OP2.13 Environmental risk factors for chronic respiratory diseases.

Giovanni Viegi

OP2.14 Impact of school characteristics on children's respiratory health

Peter Fsadni, Frank Bezzina, Noel Aquilina, Stephen Montefort

OP2.15 An increase in the severity of rhinitis and a reduction in severity of wheezing and eczema in 12- to 15- year old Maltese children over two decades (ISAAC - Malta)

Eleanor Gerada, Hugo Agius Muscat, Lliberato Camilleri, Stephen Montefort

OP2.16 Respira project: binary logistic regression model for 9 respiratory questions comparing 2 urban with rural areas in Sicily and Malta

Martin Balzan, Gaspare Drago, Christopher Zammit, Silvia Ruggieri, David Bilocca, Fabio Cibella, Stephen Montefort, Giovanni Viegi

OP2.17 Respira project: the chemical fingerprint of outdoor PM_{2.5} in Malta

Martin Balzan, Fabio Cibella, Christopher Zammit, David Bilocca, Cinzia Perrino, Silvia Canepari, Stephen Montefort, Giovanni Viegi

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2D**
Anaesthesia / Intensive Care

Chairpersons: *C. Abela, M. Buttigieg*

OP2.18 Auditing anaesthetic techniques and their complications with a special emphasis on post dural puncture headaches in Central Delivery Suite in Mater Dei Hospital

Laura Vassallo, Josef Zahra, Federica Sant, Christabel Mizzi, Carl Tua, Jessica Sant

OP2.19 Caesarian Section Anaesthesia - Technique and Failure Rate.

Tatyana Farrugia, Federica Sant, Christabel Mizzi, Karen Sapiano, Matthew Bonello

OP2.20 Day case surgeries at Mater Dei Hospital: are criteria being adhered to?

Christabel Mizzi, Matthew Bonello, Daniel Farrugia

OP2.21 Post lower segmental caesarean section pain management and modified early obstetric warning system charting

Christabel Mizzi, Karen Sapiano, Glenn Abela, Daniel Farrugia

OP2.22 Introduction of a ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) prevention bundle

Anne Marie Camilleri Podesta, Carmel Abela, Michael Borg, Peter Zarb, Patricia O'Brien, Deborah Maria Pace

OP2.23 A comparison of local anaesthetic procedures performed at the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit of Mater Dei Hospital Malta between 2013 and 2014

Edward Muscat, Matthew Borg, Joseph Briffa, Francis Darmanin

OP2.24 Rate of critical care admission and 30-day mortality post-emergency laparotomy in Malta

Elaine Borg, Maureen Bezzina, Andrew Spina, Michael Buttigieg

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2E**
Anatomy and Cell Biology

Chairpersons: *P. Schembri Wismayer, C. Pomara*

OP2.25 Using an objective morphological analysis to study differentiation induction in acute myeloid leukaemia

Nicola Darmanin, Caroline Camilleri, Jessica Axiak, Sarah Scerri, Stephanie Farrugia, Stephanie Pullicino, Analisse Cassar, Sherif Suleiman, Sonia Patricia Stoica, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.26 To fool a factor: the use of decoy oligonucleotides to target transcription factors involved in hair growth

Elena Farrugia, Maria Grazia Grech, Rebecca Zammit, Francesca Rappa, Francesco Cappello, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.27 Mononucleate cells from psoriatic patients exhibit altered mitochondrial respiratory activity

Rosella Scrima, Claudia Piccoli, Nazzareno Capitanio

OP2.28 Is there a biomechanical cause for spontaneous pneumothorax?

Aaron R Casha, Alexander Manché, Ruben Gatt, Wiktor Wolak, Krzysztof Dudek, Marilyn Casha, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer, Marie-Therese Camilleri-Podesta, Joseph N Grima

OP2.29 Inducing differentiation of HL-60 cells via a nucleoside analog and 3-bromothiophene

Maria Grazia Grech, Marie Adrienne Zerafa Simler, Stefano Corso, Thomas Gatt, Dale Brincat, Rachid Benhida, Nadine Martinet, Lucienne Gatt, Analisse Cassar, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.30 A Hypothesis for Reactivation of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: How Thoracic Wall Shape Affects the Epidemiology of Tuberculosis

Aaron Casha, Liberato Camilleri, Alexander Manché, Ruben Gatt, Daphne Attard, Wiktor Wolak, Krzysztof Dudek, Marilyn Gauci, Christopher Giordimaina, Joseph N Grima

OP2.31 Ultrasound investigation of scalp thickness in a study of male pattern baldness

Ayrton Borg, Joanna Thompson, Jessica Axiak, Caroline Camilleri, Andee Agius, Janice Borg, Gillian Pace Moore, Raymond Galea, Jean Calleja Agius, Pierre Schembri Wismayer

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2F**
Public Health / Psychiatry

Chairpersons: *C. Gauci, D. Cassar*

OP2.32 Involuntary care and the new Mental Health Act

John M Cachia

OP2.33 Congenital anomalies contributing to neonatal deaths in Malta

Miriam Gatt, Kathleen England

OP2.34 Self-efficacy, self-care and outcomes in persons with diabetes

Sascha Reiff, Natasha Azzopardi Muscat

OP2.35 An income divide? Monthly household income and prevalence of non-communicable disease

Dorothy Gauci, Neville Calleja

OP2.36 Terrorist attacks and the male to female ratio at birth: the troubles in Northern Ireland, the Rodney King riots and the Breivik and Sandy Hook shootings

Victor Grech

OP2.37 Problematic internet use among young people aged 18 to 30 years in Malta: are we worrying too much?

Anna Maria Vella, Richard Camilleri, Marilyn Clark, Janet Mifsud, Mario Mifsud

OP2.38 Cigarette smoking and patients with severe mental illness

Veronica Said Pullicino¹, James Gauci, Kurt Magri Gatt, Rachel Taylor East, Anton Grech

12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 - 14:45 **Plenary II**
Prof. Thomas D'Hooghe

Chairperson: *Charles Savona Ventura*

14:45 - 15:15 **Coffee Break and Exhibition**

Parallel Session 3

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3A: Surgery**

Chairpersons: *A. Walthaus, C. Cini*

OP3.01 Transanal total mesorectal excision: the way forward in rectal cancer surgery
Albert Wolthuis

OP3.02 Enhanced recovery after colonic resection at Mater Dei Hospital: a prospective pilot cohort study
Charles Cini, Anthony Pio Dimech

OP3.03 Oesophagectomies in Malta over the past eight years - an analysis of our results
Stephen Micallef Eynaud, Julian Delicata, Franklin Abela, Benedict Axisa

OP3.04 Umbilical/paraumbilical hernia repair: A new technique using the Ultrapro^R Plug
Joseph Anthony Attard, Christine Azzopardi, Alexander Attard

OP3.05 Incidence and odds ratio of appendicitis as a manifestation of colon cancer; a retrospective analysis
Matthew Bonello, Tara Grima, Jonathan Cutajar, Josephine Psaila

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3B**
Diabetes

Chairpersons: *S. Fava, M. Cachia*

OP3.06 Epigenetics and Type 1 diabetes
Alexia-Giovanna Abela, Duncan Ayers, Stephen Fava

OP3.07 An unrecognized variety of diabetes amongst the Maltese population, MODY
Ian Baldacchino, Lauren Abela, Keith Borg Xuereb, Gillian Pace Moore, Benjamin Thornton, Ruth Caruana, Josanne Vassallo

OP3.08 Diabetes in pregnancy: diagnosis, management, follow up, outcome and complications
Maria Petra Agius, Mark Gruppeta, Josanne Vassallo

OP3.09 Type 2 diabetes, bone and disc height
Rachel Agius, Raymond Galea, Stephen Fava

OP3.10 A national major amputation database for Malta
Kevin Cassar, Jesmond Attard, Daniel Schembri, Shawn Meilak, Maria Abela, Marcette Cassar, Francesca Muscat

OP3.11 Predictors of diabetic nephropathy
Miriam Giordano Imbroll, Daniele Agius Laurretta, Trevor Tabone, Stephen Fava

OP3.12 Prediction of insulin resistance in Type 2 diabetes mellitus using routinely available clinical parameters
Caroline Jane Magri, Joseph Galea, Stephen Fava

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3C**
Molecular Sciences II

Chairpersons: *G. Grech, C. Saliba*

OP3.13 Predictive genetics: the Maltese familial breast/ovarian cancer genetic screening programme
Jeanesse Scerri, Ritiene Debono, Christian Saliba, Godfrey Grech, Christian Scerri

OP3.14 CIP2A expression is upregulated in triple-negative breast cancer
Shawn Baldacchino, Laura Wastall, Christian Saliba, Thomas A Hughes, Valerie Speirs, Godfrey Grech

OP3.15 Novel molecular classifiers of basal-type subset in breast cancer patients
Shawn Baldacchino, Christian Saliba, Jean Paul Ebejer, James DeGaetano, Christian Scerri, Godfrey Grech

OP3.16 Molecular classifiers of breast cancer patients using multiplex assays
Christian Saliba, Shawn Baldacchino, Maria Pia Grixti, Vanessa Petroni, Robert Gauci, James DeGaetano, Anthony Fenech, Christian Scerri, Godfrey Grech

OP3.17 Isolation and characterization of Cancer Stem Cells from Malta patients with breast cancer.
Riccardo Di Fiore, Christian Saliba, Rosa Drago Ferrante, Daniela Carlisi, Giovanni Tesoriere, Godfrey Grech, Christian Scerri, Renza Vento

OP3.18 Differential expression of breast cancer signature genes following rapamycin treatment
Vanessa Petroni, Anthony G Fenech, Christian Saliba, Marie Therese Camilleri Podesta, Shawn Baldacchino, Godfrey Grech

OP3.19 The distribution and prevalence of HPV genotype in Maltese women diagnosed with CIN 3 and cervical cancer
Edward Falzon, Graziella Zahra, Charlene Busuttil, Christian Saliba, Godfrey Grech, James Degaetano

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3D**
Dentistry, Infectious Diseases, Microbiology

Chairpersons: *J. Camilleri, B. Ellul*

OP3.20 The local reponse to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa
Charles Mallia Azzopardi, Tonio Piscopo, Claudia Fsadni

OP3.21 Novel tricalcium silicate cements: not just common cements
Maria Xuereb, Francois Paul Sorrentino, Denis Damidot, Josette Camilleri

OP3.22 A comparison of the microbiological flora in the oral cavity of type II diabetes mellitus vs non-diabetic adult dental patients
Gabrielle de Gray, Neville Calleja, Christopher Henry Barbara

OP3.23 Effects of steam, ethylene oxide, UV and alcohol sterilization and disinfection techniques on chemical and physical properties of selected dental filling materials
Cher Farrugia, Glenn Cassar, Vasilis Valdramidis, Josette Camilleri

OP3.24 Use of levofloxacin and piperacillin-tazobactam for empiric treatment of lower respiratory tract infections in Mater Dei Hospital: are we too trigger-happy?
Andrea Falzon Parascandolo, Michael Angelo Borg

OP3.25 Outcome of Mantoux screening in children in Malta: does BCG vaccination matter?
Ruth Farrugia, David Pace

OP3.26 Evaluating Fosfomycin as an alternative treatment for infections caused by highly resistant OXA-48 enterobacterial isolates in a Mater Dei hospitalized patients.
Nina Nestorova, Paul Caruana, Robert Cassar, Rosann Zammit Cassar, Elizabeth Ann Scicluna

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3E**
Family Medicine, Public Health

Chairpersons: *P. Sciortino, D. Vella Baldacchino*

OP3.27 House visits in general practice: a cross sectional survey
Lorna Attard, Jurgen Abela

OP3.28 Health record documentation by doctors in a primary health care setting; a local audit
Adrian Mifsud, Andrea Luca Fenech, Anthony Livori

OP3.29 Use of lumbosacral spine radiographs in primary health care centre
Sean Francalanza, Glorianne Pullicino, Paul Sciortino, Philip Sciortino

OP3.30 Mental health in youth
John M Cachia

OP3.31 University of Malta SAHHTeK survey: results from the pilot study
Sarah Cuschieri, Fatemah Abdullah, Bader A Ali, Gary Bonnici, Yimeng Zhang, Anthony Cini, Christopher Barbara, Neville Calleja, Josanne Vassallo, Julian Mamo

OP3.32 Maternal age at delivery in Malta over the past 15 years

Miriam Gatt, Neville Calleja

OP3.33 It's not all about time: factors implicated in food choices among Maltese mothers

Elaine Dutton, Lynn B Myers

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3F**
Rheumatology, Nephrology

Chairpersons: *B. Coleiro, E. Farrugia*

OP3.34 Fluid prescription in acute medical admissions

Jonathan Gauci, Stephanie Attard, Kyra Bartolo, Anthea Brincat, Justine Camilleri, Nicholas Paul Delicata, Darlene Muscat, Karen Anne Cassar

OP3.35 Treatment of psoriasis with biologic agents in Malta

Liam Mercieca, Michael J Boffa, Eileen Clark, Lawrence Scerri, Susan Aquilina

OP3.36 Monitoring of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus in local practice

Erika Cefai, Bernard Coleiro, William Camilleri, Edith Sciberras, Andrew Borg

OP3.37 Vaccination rates in adults with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases and the patients' perspective on their infection risk

Rosalie Magro, Marilyn Rogers, Franco Camilleri

OP3.38 The outcome of kidney transplantation in anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody associated vasculitis

Jesmar Buttigieg, Dana Kidder, Lorna Henderson

OP3.39 Incidence of end-stage renal disease requiring renal replacement therapy in the Maltese islands

Ian Baldacchino, Sarah Bezzina, Garbiella Balzan, Daniel Debattista, Emanuel Farrugia

OP3.40 Management, referral and outcomes of acute kidney injury

Lara Delicata, Maria Angela Grima, Roberta Callus

16:30 - 18:00 **Poster Session 1**

P1 Obstetrics

Chairpersons: *A. Scerri, J. Thake*

P2 Paediatrics

Chairpersons: *D. Pace, R. Parascandolo*

P3 Cardiology

Chairpersons: *A. Cassar, O. Aquilina*

P4 Molecular Sciences

Chairpersons: *B. Ellul, G. Grech*

P5 Surgery

Chairpersons: *M. Schembri, C. Cini*

P6 Microbiology, Dentistry

Chairpersons: *C. Cordina, N. Nestorova*

Reviews and Case Reports: *P.001- P.064*

Friday, 4th December

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 4C**
**Infectious Disease,
Microbiology**

Chairpersons: *B. Ellul, C. Mallia Azzopardi*

OP4.13 An outbreak of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the MSM (men who have sex with men) population in Malta

Valeska Padovese, Donia Gamoudi, Alexandra Gauci Farrugia, Lawrence Scerri

OP4.14 Analysis of changes in antiretroviral therapy regimens in the cohort of HIV seropositive patients followed up at the infectious diseases clinic

Lisa Micallef Grimaud, Daniela Mallia, Tonio Piscopo, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.15 Assessment of antiretroviral drug resistance mutations in HIV seropositive patients in Malta.

Lisa Micallef Grimaud, Ramon Casha, Daniela Mallia, Tonio Piscopo, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.16 Adherence to the European association for the study of the liver (EASL) and American association for the study of liver diseases (AASLD) guidelines in the management of hepatitis B

Anette Portelli, Ramon Casha, Tonio Piscopo, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.17 Prioritizing the need for treatment of chronic hepatitis C patients in a methadone dispensing clinic in Malta.

Moses Camilleri

OP4.18 Does continuous positive airway pressure influence respiratory infections in patients suffering from obstructive sleep apnoea?

Kyra Bartolo, Liam Mercieca, Richard Pullicino, Rodianne Abela, Sean Apap Mangion, Julian Cassar, Matthew Zammit, Christine Gatt, Peter Fsadni, Stephen Montefort

OP4.19 Trends in meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemia, at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta; the importance of root cause analysis to drive improvement strategies.

Andrea Falzon Parascandalo, Elizabeth Anne Scicluna, Rodianne Abela, Karl Galea, Claire Farrugia, Ermira Tartari Bonnici, Deborah Xuereb, Noel Abela, Simeone Zerafa, Michael Angelo Borg

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 4D
Neurosciences**

Chairpersons: *G. Rizzolatti, G. Digiovanni*

OP4.20 Acute ischemic injury of astrocytes

Robert Fern, Mario Valentino, Sarah Elwood

OP4.21 Pathogenesis of psychiatric disorders: role of redox dysregulation

Luigia Trabace, Stefania Schiavone

OP4.22 Detection and analysis of real-time behavioural sequences of social interaction in rats

Maurizio Casarrubea, Fabiana Faulisi, Aurora Cudia, Dario Cancemi, Maurizio Cardaci, Magnus S Magnusson, Filippo Caternicchia, Arcangelo Benigno, Giuseppe Di Giovanni, Giuseppe Crescimanno

OP4.23 In vivo imaging and monitoring astrocytes in health and disease

Mario Valentino, Robert Zammit, Christian Zammit, Jasmine Vella, Richard Muscat

OP4.24 Modelling spinal muscular atrophy in *Drosophila*: a fruitful approach?

Ruben J. Cauchi

OP4.25 Implication of inwardly-rectifying K channels in the pathogenesis of autism

Maria Cristina D'Adamo, Elena Ambrosini, Federico Sicca, Filippo Maria Santorelli, Mauro Pessia

OP4.26 Specific or synergistic effects of deep brain stimulation of subthalamic nucleus and L-dopa on TMS-evoked cortical reactivity in Parkinson's disease patients

Alessandro Stefani, Giacomo Koch

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 4E
Orthopaedics**

Chairpersons: *R. Gatt, T. Azzopardi*

OP4.27 Pre-operative intravenous fluid hydration in elective total knee and total hip replacement patients and the effects on peri-operative complications

Alexia Farrugia, Maximilian Mifsud, Massimo Abela

OP4.28 Hip fracture mortality among osteoporotic patients

Sarah Cuschieri, Stephan Grech, Ray Gatt

OP4.29 Comparison of the total care pathway for neck of femur fractures between Mater Dei Hospital, Malta and Barnet Hospital, London UK

Stephan Grech, Sarah Cuschieri

OP4.30 Delirium and its management in hip fracture patients

Joanna Grech, Caroline Galdes, John Cordina

OP4.31 Mortality following hip fracture in Malta

Yimeng Zhang, Sandra Distefano, Neville Calleja, Kathleen England

OP4.32 Biochemical predictors of low bone mineral density and fracture susceptibility in Maltese postmenopausal women

Melissa Marie Formosa, Angela Xuereb-Anastasi

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 4F
Molecular Sciences III**

Chairpersons: *A. Xuereb, R. Formosa*

OP4.33 Aspirin impairs the carnitine shuttle pathway in redox-compromised yeast cells: implications for cancer chemoprevention and Reye's syndrome

Gianluca Farrugia, Christian Saliba, Jelena Pistolovic, Vladimir Benes, Neville Vassallo, Godfrey Grech, Joseph J. Borg, William H. Bannister, Rena Balzan

OP4.34 Probing the structure and tumour-suppressor properties of manganese superoxide dismutase

Rosalin Bonetta, Gary James Hunter, Anthony Fenech, Chi Trinh, Therese Hunter

OP4.35 The interferon regulatory factor 5-RelA interaction targets inflammatory genes in macrophages

David George Saliba, Irina A Udalova, Hayley L Eames

OP4.36 Amiloride induces alternative splicing of the PP2A α mRNA in haematopoietic cell lines

Stephanie Gauci, Christian Saliba, Shawn Baldacchino, Anthony Fenech, Godfrey Grech

OP4.37 The effect of endoluminal treatment with c-fos oligonucleotide antisense on the expression of c-fos mRNA in human saphenous vein

Joseph Galea

OP4.38 Serum amyloid A in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Anne Marie Bonello, Anabel Sciriha, Stephen Lungaro-Mifsud, Stephen Montefort, Bridget Ellul, Godfrey Grech, Anthony G Fenech

OP4.39 Dichloroacetate induces morpho-functional alterations and selective degradation of mitochondria in cells from oral squamous cell carcinomas

Vitalba Ruggieri, Francesca Agriesti, Tiziana Tataranni, Carmela Mazzoccoli, Claudia Piccoli

11:00 - 11:30 **Coffee Break and Exhibition**

Parallel Session 5

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5A
Gynaecology**

Chairpersons: *A. Cameron,
C. Savona Ventura*

OP5.01
Alan D Cameron

OP5.02 A retrospective observational study of the causes and treatment of recurrent early pregnancy loss

Heidi Gauci Grech, Mark Formosa

OP5.03 Awareness of the human papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV vaccines

Bettina von Brockdorff, Lilian M Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino Inglott

OP5.04 The role of cytokines in cutaneous aging during menopause

Marika Borg, Jean Calleja-Agius

OP5.05 Serum cytokines in Maltese women with miscarriage

Christina Xerri, Edith Said, Jean Calleja-Agius

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5B
Respiratory**

Chairpersons: *G. Cremona, M. Balzan*

OP5.06 C
OPD as a multisystem condition
George Cremona

OP5.07 Predictors of inhaler technique in asthma and COPD

Kyra Bartolo, Michael Pace Bardon, Emma Louise Schembri, Simon Mifsud, Darlene Muscat, Rachelle Asciak, Michael Sullivan, Stephen Montefort, Martin Balzan

OP5.08 An audit on the effect of a hospital oxygen therapy guideline on prescription and administration of oxygen therapy

Rachelle Asciak, Maria Ciantar, Julia Tua, Caroline Gouder, Valerie Anne Fenech, Stephen Montefort

OP5.09 Watching over the lung nodule
Jonathan Gauci, Elizabeth Cassar, Christabel Mizzi, Dillon Mintoff, Richard Pullicino, Mauro Sacco, Kay Vanhear, Andrea Vella Baldacchino, Adrian Mizzi, Stephen Montefort

OP5.10 Association between obstructive sleep apnoea and atopy in Malta
Caroline Gouder, Peter Fsadni, Jonathan Gauci, Claire Vella, Simon Gouder, Claudia Fsadni, Christopher Deguara, Stephen Montefort

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5C
Nephrology, Vascular
Surgery**

Chairpersons: *J. Farrugia Agius, K. Cassar*

OP5.11 Bacterial flora and peritoneal dialysis related infections in Malta
Angela Borg Cauchi, Jesmar Buttigieg, Marilyn Rogers, Mario Pio Vella, Joseph Farrugia Agius, Louis Buhagiar, Emanuel Farrugia

OP5.12 Incidence of dialysis-requiring acute kidney injury in the Maltese islands
Ian Baldacchino, Sarah Bezzina, Garbiella Balzan, Daniel Debattista, Emanuel Farrugia

OP5.13 Haemodialysis adequacy at the renal unit
Maria Bugeja, Jesmar Buttigieg, Paul Glynn, Joseph Farrugia Agius, Mario Pio Vella, Louis Buhagiar, Emanuel Farrugia

OP5.14 Is surveillance of native arteriovenous fistulae required in the Maltese haemodialysis population?
Chris Gauci, Paul Bezzina, Kevin Cassar

OP5.15 Endovascular abdominal aortic aneurysm repair in Malta
Ian Said, Francesca Theuma, Adrian Mizzi, Kevin Cassar, Louise Reichmuth, Nathania Bonanno

OP5.16 Recurrent varicose veins following surgical treatment in the Maltese population
Daniela Cassar, Pierre Demicoli, Frances Zarb, Kevin Cassar

OP5.17 Preliminary results of radiofrequency vein ablation programme at Mater Dei Hospital
Ian Said, Kevin Cassar

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5D**
Haematology, Oncology

Chairpersons: *S. Laspina, A. Gatt*

OP5.18 Survival after lung cancer surgery in Malta
Aaron Casha, Malcolm Buhagiar, Rachel Vella Critien, Katia Muscat, Liberato Camilleri

OP5.19 Personalized medicine: EGFR and ALK genotyping of lung adenocarcinomas in Malta
Jeanesse Scerri, Maria Mifsud, Malcolm Buhagiar, Dorianne Buttigieg, Allison Cordina, Catherine Grima, Claude Magri, Nick Refalo, James DeGaetano, Christian Scerri

OP5.20 Use of targeted therapies in advanced and metastatic non-small cell lung cancer - our local experience.
Donika Metaraku, Maria Mifsud, Stephen Brincat, James Mark Debono

OP5.21 Modulating regulatory T cells for treatment of cancer
Oriana Mazzitelli, Mark Farrugia, Pierre Schembri Wismayer, Byron Baron, Analisse Cassar, Lucienne Gatt, Christian Saliba

OP5.22 Androgens are involved in regulation of growth and differentiation in hepatocellular carcinoma cells in vitro
Francesca Agriesti, Tiziana Tataranni, Carmela Mazzoccoli, Vitalba Ruggieri, Rosella Scrima, Olga Cela, Giuliana Villani, Cristoforo Pomara, Nazzareno Capitanio, Claudia Piccoli

OP5.23 Survival data on acute myeloid leukemia in Mater Dei Hospital
Asterios Giotas, Mark Grech, David James Camilleri, Alex Gatt

OP5.24 Does dose intensity of chemotherapeutic agents have any effect on survival or relapse in patients with high grade B-cell lymphoma?
Melanie Cutajar, Thomas Borg Barthet, David James Camilleri, Alexander Gatt

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5E**
Pharmacology

Chairpersons: *R. Ellul-Micallef, J. Mifsud*

OP5.25 Gentamicin prescription at Mater Dei Hospital: are guidelines followed?
Anthony Pio Dimech, Francesca Spiteri, Peter Zarb, Michael Angelo Borg

OP5.26 Safety and tolerability of omalizumab in Malta
Caroline Gouder, Rachelle Ascik, Stephen Montefort

OP5.27 Investigation into the genetic and functional relevance of the association of rs12477314 with pulmonary function
Godwin M Grech, Godfrey Grech, Roger Ellul-Micallef, Ian Hall, Anthony G Fenech

OP5.28 Pharmacogenetic aspects of thiopurine methyltransferase in Maltese individuals
Sarah Tarhuni, Pierre Ellul, John Schembri, Godfrey Grech, Anthony G Fenech

OP5.29 The validation of a guideline algorithm for the antibiotic treatment of infected lower limb wounds or ulcers.
Claudine Farrugia, Michael A Borg, Janet Mifsud

OP5.30 Pharmacoepidemiology of epilepsy in a paediatric neurology clinic
Anne-Marie Scerri, Doriette Soler, Neville Calleja, Patricia Vella Bonanno, Janet Mifsud

OP5.31 The Belief about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ) in the Maltese language
Ingrid Gatt, Neville Calleja, Charles Briffa, Robert Horne, Maria Cordina

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5F**
Surgery

Chairpersons: *G. LaFerla, J. Etienne Abela*

OP5.32 Red cell transfusion: Is one better than two?

Denise Borg Aquilina, Dorianne Attard, Alicia Dimech, Nathan Mark Edwards, Gabriel Galea, Daphne Gatt, Rosanne Scerri, Stefan Laspina

OP5.33 A closed cycle audit of coagulation screen requests of patients admitted to the Emergency Department at Mater Dei Hospital
Alicia Dimech, Nathan Mark Edwards

OP5.34 Launching and running "SA Learn" - a safety alerting system for learning at Mater Dei Hospital.
Miriam Dalmas, Lilian Azzopardi, Emma Manduca, Dustin Balzan, Corinne Ward, Carmel Abela

OP5.35 Prophylactic use of antibiotics in inguinal hernia repair
Samuel Anthony Galea, Charles Cini

OP5.36 Appendicitis in the paediatric population: outcomes at Mater Dei Hospital
Ramona Camilleri, Colin Mizzi, John Cauchi

OP5.37 Bariatric surgery in Malta - a taste of our results
Stephen Micallef Eynaoud, Franklin Abela, Julian Delicata, Benedict Axisa

12:45 - 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 - 14:45 **Plenary IV**

Chairperson: *S Chetcut*

Percutaneous treatment of aortic stenosis, current state and future directions

14:45 - 15:15 **Coffee Break and Exhibition**

Parallel Session 6

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6A**
Psychiatry

Chairpersons: *S. Zammit, D. Cassar*

OP6.01 Psychotic experiences in adolescents: causes and consequences
Stanley Zammit

OP6.02 Trends and patient characteristics of suicides in Malta
Elena Marie Felice, Ethel Felice, Marie Therese Camilleri Podesta, Dolores Gauci, Kathleen England, Neville Calleja, Lydia Grixti, Charlene Bondin, Sephora Santucci

OP6.03 A case control and follow up study of 'Hard to Reach' young people who also suffered from multiple complex mental disorders
Nigel Camilleri, Dorothy Newbury-Birch, Paul McArdle, Deborah Stocken

OP6.04 Mental health problems in medical students at the University of Malta. A longitudinal study
David Cassar, Mary Anne Lauri, Josef Lauri

OP6.05 A snapshot of child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric services in Malta: uptake and implications for future services
Anton Grech, Sally Jane Axiak

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6B**
Pharmaceutical Sciences

Chairpersons: *F. Wirth, M. Attard Pizzuto*

OP6.06 pH and steroid orthoester hydrolysis
Nicolette Sammut Bartolo, Theresa Hörnemann, Victor Ferrito, Janis Vella, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP6.07 Development of a greener selective acylation method for steroids
Darren Cioffi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott, Nicolette Sammut-Bartolo, Victor Ferrito, Janis Vella, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP6.08 Waste management in pharmaceutical processes
Shirley Tabone, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian Azzopardi

OP6.09 Factors affecting the concentration of ciprofloxacin in ischaemic tissue
Janis Vella, Maria Vella, Kevin Cassar, Lilian M Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott, Godfrey LaFerla

OP6.10 Design and optimisation of novel structures for the management of Alzheimer's disease
Neil John Bugeja, Claire Shoemake

OP6.11 Optimisation of novel selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors using resveratrol analogues as lead molecules
Clarissa Caruana, Claire Shoemake

OP6.12 Design of novel non-steroidal structures capable of antagonism of the oestrogen related receptor alpha for the management of breast cancer.
Keith Muscat, Claire Shoemaker

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6C**
Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery

Chairpersons: *J. Galea, A. Borg*

OP6.13 Audit of heart failure treatment in patients with an ejection fraction less than 50% on echocardiography
Amy Christine Chircop, Maria Bonnici, Alice Moore, Herbert Felice, Andrew Cassar

OP6.14 Predictors of outcome following myocardial perfusion scan
Caroline Jan e Magri, Dillon Mintoff, Ramona Camilleri, Malcolm Mintoff, Julian Cassar, Robert George Xuereb, Stephen Fava, Joseph Galea

OP6.15 Uptake of unhealthy habits among Maltese grown-up congenital heart disease patients
Carl Camilleri

OP6.16 Outcomes of transcatheter aortic valve implantation in Malta
Andrew Cassar, Elton Pllaha, Alexander Manche, Albert Fenech, Robert George Xuereb

OP6.17 Haematological parameters in a trial of perceval and mitroflow aortic valve implantation
Aaron R Casha, Stephanie Santucci, Liberato Camilleri, Kentaro Yamagata, Joseph Galea, Alexander Manché

OP6.18 Long-term survival after aortic valve replacement: a twenty-year relative survival study
Alexander Manche, Liberato Camilleri, Dorothy Gauci

OP6.19 Galectin-3 levels in aortic stenosis patients
Andrew Cassar, Daniela Cassar Demarco, Graziella Zahra, Stephen Fava, Joseph Galea

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6D**
Medical Education

Chairpersons: *P. Mallia, T. Piscopo*

OP6.20 Comparison of Extended Matching Questions and Short Answer Questions when testing student health professionals
Neville Calleja

OP6.21 Psychometric properties of the UMKC-SOM Climate of Professionalism instrument.
David M Mangion

OP6.22 Peer teaching in anatomy: does it really work? A cross-sectional, retrospective survey.
Andee Agius, Neville Calleja, Christian Zammit, Richard Pullicino, Christian Camenzuli, Roberta Sultana, Jean Calleja Agius, Cristoforo Pomara

OP6.23 The impact of the annual August trainee changeover on cardiac surgical outcomes in a single UK institution.
Edward Joseph Caruana, Samer Nashef

OP6.24 Cardiac surgical training is safe for patients.
Edward Joseph Caruana, Samer Nashef

OP6.25 Evaluation of a teaching programme in an acute medical unit
Jonathan P Mamo

OP6.26 Beware email invitations to submit a paper!
Justine Bugeja, Victor Grech

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6E**
Neurology, Medicine

Chairpersons: *J. Aquilina, N. Refalo*

OP6.27 Assessing frailty and anaesthetic risk in the older patient
Christine Debattista, Neville Aquilina, Peter Ferry

OP6.28 The use of enoxaparin in medical admissions to prevent hospital-acquired venous thromboembolism (VTE)
Nicholas Paul Delicata, Justine Camilleri, Jonathan Gauci, Darlene Muscat, Anthea Brincat, Stephanie Attard, Kyra Bartolo, Robert Camilleri, Karen Anne Cassar

OP6.29 An audit on testosterone therapy in adult males with androgen deficiency.
Josephine Bigeni, Mark Gruppetta, Yanica Vella, Matthew Zammit, Clayton Micallef, Maria Mifsud, Josanne Vassallo

OP6.30 Detailed epidemiology and radiological geometric assessment of pituitary macroadenomas: a population based study
Mark Gruppetta, Josanne Vassallo

OP6.31 A local study on patient knowledge on the use of botulinum toxin in neurological disorders
James Gauci, Maria Alessandra Zammit, Darren Sillato, Beatrice Farrugia, Maria Mallia

OP6.32 An audit of respiratory assessment and non-invasive ventilation management in motor neurone disease
Jonathan P Mamo

OP6.33 Male infertility at the male urology infertility clinic, Mater Dei Hospital Malta
Martha Anne Zammit, Gregory Philip Apap Bologna, Andrew John Mercieca, Jean Calleja-Agius

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6F**
Surgical Oncology

Chairpersons: *J. Degatano, C. Magri*

OP6.34 Thyroid aspiration cytology: a three year correlation study with histopathology
Roderick Busuttil, Jonathan Galea, Mario Taliana, James DeGaetano, Alexandra Betts

OP6.35 Personalized medicine: KRAS genotyping of colorectal adenocarcinomas in Malta
Jeanesse Scerri, Malcolm Buhagiar, Maria Mifsud, Dorianne Buttigieg, Allison Cordina, Catherine Grima, Stephen Brincat, Claude Magri, James DeGaetano, Christian Scerri

OP6.36 Cost comparison of oral capecitabine versus intravenous 5-fluorouracil/folinic acid in cancer based treatment
Lorna Marie West, Alison Brincat, Joseph Nicholas Sciberras, Rachel A. Micallef

OP6.37 Cost implications of current dose rounding in high cost parenteral anti-cancer treatment and potential cost savings with a 5% dose rounding
Alison Brincat, Joseph Nicholas Sciberras, Lorna Marie West, Ian Rapa

OP6.38 Uptake of unhealthy habits among Maltese grown-up congenital heart disease patients
Maryanne Caruana, Victor Grech

OP6.39 Assessing the quality and completeness of request forms in the histopathology department
Adriana Grech, Michelle Ceci, James Degaetano

OP6.40 The efficacy of lymph node fine needle aspiration cytology
Jason Attard, Jonathan Galea, Alexandra Betts

16:30 - 18:00 **Poster Session 2**

P7 Gynaecology

Chairpersons: *M. Formosa, J. Mamo*

P8 Gastrointestinal medicine

Chairpersons: *J. Pocock, J. Gerada*

P9 Pharmacy

Chairpersons: *L. Grech, J. Vella*

P10 Endocrinology & Diabetes

Chairpersons: *M. Gruppetta, S. Vella*

P11 Surgery, Anaesthesia, Orthopaedics

Chairpersons: *P. Zammit, S. Sciberras*

P12 Medicine

Chairpersons: *P. Ellul, M. Vella*

Reviews and Case Reports: *P.065 - P.130*

Saturday, 5th December

08:00 **Registration**

9:00 - 9:45 **Plenary V**

Chairperson: *Dr George Galea*

Parallel Session 7

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 7A
Respiratory Medicine
and Rehabilitation**

Chairpersons: *S. Singh, J. Micallef*

OP7.01 Pulmonary rehabilitation - the evidence, the challenges and the use of technology
Sally Singh

OP7.02 An observational study of obstructive sleep apnoea in Malta
Darlene Muscat, Paul Torpiano, Matthew Mercieca Balbi, Peter Fsadni, Stephen Montefort

OP7.03 A local perspective on risk factors and short term outcomes in community-acquired pneumonia
Caroline Gouder, Michael Borg, Donia Gamoudi, Marija Agius, Nadia Gamoudi, David Farrugia, Josef Micallef

OP7.04 Pulmonary rehabilitation in pulmonary fibrosis patients - benefits of a 12 week programme
Anabel Scirha, Stephen Lungaro-Mifsud, Rachelle Ascjak, Darlene Muscat, Caroline Gouder, Simon Gouder, Peter Fsadni, Josianne Scerri, Liberato Camilleri, Stephen Montefort

OP7.05 The effects of pulmonary rehabilitation (PR) on inflammatory markers in stable chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients
Anabel Scirha, AnneMarie Bonello, Stephen Lungaro-Mifsud, Josianne Scerri, Liberato Camilleri, Bridget Ellul, Anthony Fenech, Stephen Montefort

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 7B
Public Health**

Chairpersons: *M. Mackee, J. Mamo*

OP7.06 The political economy of health: preparing a new generation for a changing world
Martin Mackee

OP7.07 Mental health literacy - what we don't know, we fear!
Miriam Camilleri, Natasha Barbara

OP7.08 Pilot testing international diabetes definitions
Sarah Cuschieri, Janice Abela, Tiziana Farrugia, Matthew Scicluna, Ayrton Borg, Ryan Camilleri, Russell Bonnici, Angeline Sapiano, Ritanne Buhagiar, Julian Mamo

OP7.09 Teenage delivery rates in Malta
Miriam Gatt, Nicholas Vella-Laurenti, Neville Calleja

OP7.10 Life expectancy, mortality and elections: are elections bad for our health?
Elaine Claire Lautier, Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat, Kathleen England, Neville Calleja

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 7C
Nephrology, Urology**

Chairpersons: *E. Farrugia, J. Sciberras*

OP7.11 Catheter-related peritoneal dialysis infections in Malta
Angela Borg Cauchi, James Farrugia, Michael Borg

OP7.12 Seasonal variation in the peritoneal dialysis related infections in Malta
Jesmar Buttigieg, Angela Borg Cauchi, Marilyn Rogers, Emanuel Farrugia, Stephen Fava

OP7.13 A Maltese perspective on the microbiological prevalence, pathogenicity, distribution and metamorphosis of antibiotic susceptibilities of uropathogens over the past years
Edward Calleja, Andrew Sammut, Patrick Zammit

OP7.14 A re-audit of the management of acute infective admissions to Mater Dei Urology Unit
Tiziana Pirotta, Karen Sapiano, Gerald Busuttil

OP7.15 Nephrolithiasis, stone composition, meteorological conditions and seasons. Is there any connection?

Jesmar Buttigieg, Stephanie Attard, Ruth Galea, Alex Carachi

OP7.16 Adverse events following intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin therapy in Mater Dei Hospital, Malta

Gerald Busuttill, Luke Zammit, Christine Debattista

OP7.17 Quality of informed consent for elective transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) in Mater Dei Hospital

Keith Pace, Petra Mallia

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 7D**
Obstetrics

Chairpersons: *R. Galea, Y. Muscat Baron*

OP7.18 Demographic changes Impacting obstetric practice in Malta: a review of 61,336 births
Ramona Camilleri, Miriam Gatt, Yves Oscar Muscat Baron

OP7.19 Who gets pre-eclampsia in Malta?
Andee Agius, Miriam Gatt, Neville Calleja, Roberta Sultana, Rena Balzan

OP7.20 The first 100 cycles
Jean Calleja Agius, Mark Brincat, Mark Sant, Olivianne Cassar, Johann Craus, Max Dingli, Heidi Gauci Grech, Josephine Xuereb

OP7.21 Advanced maternal age and pregnancy outcome – a review of 39,683 births
Mandy Caruana, Miriam Gatt, Yves Oscar Muscat Baron

OP7.22 Maternal weight gain in pregnancy
Silvaine Marie Dalli, Theresia Anne Dalli, Estelle Abela, Isabelle Saliba

OP7.23 Risk factors analysis as a diagnostic aid for the diagnosis of gestational diabetes mellitus
Johann Craus, Charles Savona-Ventura, Josanne Vassallo

OP7.24 Thyroid dysfunction in pregnancy – a pilot analysis of a Maltese cohort
Katia Vella, Mark Formosa, Sandro Vella

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 7E**
Neurology, Neurosciences

Chairpersons: *J.A. Aquilina, R. Muscat*

OP7.25 Pathophysiological mechanisms of absence seizures
Vincenzo Crunelli

OP7.26 A critical role for serotonin 2A (5-HT_{2A}) and 2C (5-HT_{2C}) receptors in modulating experimental absence seizures
Giuseppe Di Giovanni

OP7.27 Transient modulation of olfactory information processing by the brainstem dorsal raphe nucleus
Szabina Furdan, Magor L Lőrincz

OP7.28 Impairment of synaptic homeostasis in Parkinson's disease: a high-density EEG study in different stage of the disease
Salvatore Galati

OP7.29 Guillain-Barré syndrome in Malta
Marilyn Rogers, James Gauci, Malcolm Vella, Maria Mallia

OP7.30 A retrospective cross-sectional analysis of CT brain scans in elderly patients presenting with acute confusion at the emergency department
Julian Sammut Alessi, Anna Spiteri, Richard Apap Bologna, Sarah Darmanin, Joel Pollacco

OP7.31 Recurrent cerebrovascular events in the Maltese population
Kurt Magri Gatt, Sean Mizzi, Maria Mallia

09:45 - 11:00 **Session 7F**
Plastic Surgery,
Breast Cancer Surgery

Chairpersons: *F. Darmanin, G. Caruana Dingli*

OP7.32 Breast cancer patients diagnosed by national breast screening programme
Sarah Ellul, Kay Vanhear, Ramona Camilleri, Gordon Caruana Dingli

OP7.33 Timeframes in the management of new case breast cancer patients undergoing surgery with intention to treat in Malta in 2014: a retrospective analysis
Daniela Magri, Joseph Debono, Gordon Caruana Dingli, Danika Marmara'

OP7.34 Pre-operative axillary ultrasound staging in breast cancer surgery

Keith Sacco,
Kirsten Schembri, Shawn Baldacchino, Elaine Borg, John Agius, Joseph Debono

OP7.35 Bilateral breast reduction surgery at Mater Dei Hospital: analysis of physical and psychological symptoms using the BREAST-Q
Juanita Parnis, Duncan Aquilina, Matthew Borg, Francis Xavier Darmanin, Joseph Emanuel Briffa

OP7.36 Improving skin graft meshing
Daphne Attard, Aaron R Casha, Ruben Gatt, Joseph N Grima

OP7.37 A review of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma excisions: a 5 year follow-up study
Matthew Borg, Tara Grima, Juanita Parnis, Duncan Aquilina, Francis Darmanin, Joseph Briffa

OP7.38 Audit of the introduction of a see-and-treat clinic in the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit, Mater Dei Hospital
Kurt Magri Gatt, Matthew Borg, Gary Magri Gatt, Victoria Rizzo, Joseph Briffa

12:15 - 13:45 **Poster Session 3**

P13 Respiratory Medicine and Infectious Disease

Chairpersons: *B. Caruana Montaldo, C. Fsadni*

P14 Geriatrics, General Medicine

Chairpersons: *A. Fiorini, A. Borg*

P15 Psychiatry, Public Health

Chairpersons: *D. Cassar, C. Gauci*

P16 Pharmacology

Chairpersons: *A.G. Fenech, L. West*

P17 Imaging

Chairpersons: *A. Samuel, K. Saliba*

P18 Haematology, Oncology

Chairpersons: *D.J. Camilleri, C. Magri*

P19 Neurosciences

Chairpersons: *G. Rizzolatti, V. Crunelli*

Reviews and Case Reports: P.131 – P.204

13:45 - 14:00 **Closing Ceremony**

Guest Speakers

Prof. Alan D. Cameron

*Consultant Obstetrician and Honorary Professor of Fetal Medicine
The Ian Donald Fetal Medicine Centre, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow*

Prof. Stanley Chetcuti

*Associate Professor, Internal Medicine
Eric J. Topol Collegiate Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine
Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory
Co-Director, Structural Heart Program
University of Michigan Cardiovascular Center*

Prof. George Cremona

*Professor of respiratory medicine, University of Milan
Head of respiratory medicine and pathophysiology,
Istituto scientifico universitario San Raffaele*

Dr. Ian Curran

*Assistant Director of Education & Professional Standards
UK General Medical Council
Professor of Innovation & Excellence in Healthcare Education
Queen Mary University of London
Honorary Senior Research Associate, University College London*

Prof. Sir Alfred Cuschieri

*Professor of Surgery, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa
Chief Scientific Advisor, Institute of Medical Science and Technology (IMSaT), Dundee*

Prof. Thomas M. D'Hooghe

*Coordinator Leuven University Fertility Center, Leuven, Belgium
Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Leuven University, Belgium
Professor Adjunct, Faculty of Medicine, Yale University, New Haven, USA
Chair, International Advisory Board, Institute of Primate Research, Nairobi (WHO CC), Kenya
Editor in Chief, Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation, Basel, Switzerland*

Dr. George Galea

Independent consultant on tissue and cell banking

Prof. Alan Lau

*Professor and Director, International Clinical Pharmacy Education
University of Illinois at Chicago*

Prof. Martin McKee

*Professor of European Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
President, European Public Health Association*

Prof. Diego Peroni

*Professor in Paediatrics, Università degli Studi di Verona
Pediatric allergologist and specialist in neonatal respirology*

Prof. Giacomo Rizzolatti

*Professor of Human Physiology
Dipartimento di Neuroscienze
Università di Parma*

Prof. Sally Singh

*Professor and Head of Pulmonary/Cardiac Rehabilitation and Consultant Clinical Scientist
University Hospitals of Leicester*

Dr. Giovanni Storto

*Ancien Chef de Clinique CHUV Lausanne Suisse
European Fellowship in Nuclear Medicine
Certification Board of Nuclear Cardiology
Researcher for National Council of Research (CNR)
University "Federico II" Naples, Italy
Nuclear Medicine Section IAEA- Wien
Chief Nuclear Medicine IRCCS - CROB*

Prof. Giovanni Viegi

*Pulmonary Environmental Epidemiology Unit, CNR
Institute of Clinical Physiology, Pisa, Italy.*

Prof. Albert Wolthuis

*Abdominal surgeon
University Hospitals, Gasthuisberg Campus*

Prof. Stanley Zammit

Professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology, University of Bristol & Cardiff University

