



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina, Italy
April 10 - 12 2003

New advances in Heart Failure and Atrial Fibrillation

President: Michele M. Gulizia, MD, FACA

DEFINITIVE PROGRAM



EWGA
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Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

Heart Failure (HF) and Atrial Fibrillation (AF) are two emerging pathologies over which many investigators are addressing their researches.

The diffusion of HF and AF in the sick population represents one of the major public health problem at the beginning of the third millennium.

This three days' cardiology meeting is intended to reach the objectives of giving the latest information about the pathophysiology, the diagnosis and the treatment of HF and AF.

It is addressed to cardiologists, internists, first aid clinicians, fellows, with a high interest in the whole management of these cardiac pathologies.

A Faculty, selected between the leading experts on the field, will provide the highest quality teaching highlighting the current state and limitation of scientific knowledge and presenting a detailed analysis of the most recent developments in the treatment of HF, AF or both.

The scientific program will be developed through courses, symposia, debates on controversial topics, luncheon panels, focus on, and cases-review from Faculty and Attendance.

Michele M. Gulizia
President of the Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michele M. Gulizia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

ORGANISED BY

Cardiology Unit

S. Luigi – S. Currò Hospital
Catania – Italy

scientific secretariat

Michele Gulizia

Cardiology Unit

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Catania – Italy

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CONGRESS VENUE

Hotel Villa Diodoro

Via Bagnoli Croci, 75
Taormina (Me) - Italy



editerranean
ardiology
eeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

sotto l'alto patronato del presidente della repubblica
under the high patronage of president of the Italian Republic

con il patrocinio di
under the auspices of

Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri
President of the Ministers' Council

Ministero della Salute
Ministry of Health

Ministero dell'Università e Pubblica Istruzione
Ministry of the University and Public Education

Ministero per gli Affari Regionali
Ministry for Regional Affairs

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Presidency of the Sicilian Region

Assessorato alla Sanità Regione Siciliana
Health Councillorship - Sicilian Region

Assessorato ai Beni Culturali – Regione Siciliana
Cultural Heritage Councillorship – Sicilian Region

Provincia Regionale di Catania
Regional Province of Catania

Provincia Regionale di Messina
Regional Province of Messina

Comune di Catania
Municipality of Catania

Comune di Taormina
Municipality of Taormina

Azienda Ospedaliera “Garibaldi, S. Luigi – S. Currò, Ascoli-Tomaselli” di Catania
Hospital Enterprise “Garibaldi, S. Luigi – S. Currò, Ascoli-Tomaselli” of Catania

Università degli Studi di Catania
University of Studies of Catania

Facoltà di Medicina e Chirurgia - Università di Catania
Faculty of Medicine and Surgery – University of Catania

Ordine dei Medici Chirurghi Provincia di Catania
Medical and Surgical Association of the Province of Catania



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

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under the auspices of



ESC

European Society of Cardiology
Working Group on Arrhythmias
Working Group on Cardiac Pacing



ICPES

International Cardiac Pacing
& Electrophysiology Society



ISHNE

International Society for Holter
& Noninvasive Electrocardiology



NASPE

North American Society
of Pacing and Electrophysiology



SOLAEC

Sociedad Latinoamericana
de Estimulación Cardíaca
y Electrofisiología



AIAC

Associazione Italiana
di Aritmologia e Cardiostimolazione



ANCE

Associazione Italiana
Cardiologi Extraospedalieri



ANMCO

Associazione Nazionale Medici
Cardiologi Ospedalieri



ARCA

Associazioni Regionali
Cardiologi Ambulatoriali



FIC

Federazione Italiana di Cardiologia



SIC

Società Italiana di Cardiologia



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

president

Michele Gulizia (Catania)

Honorary president

Salvatore Mangiameli (Catania)

scientific committee

Etienne Aliot (Nancy Cedex, France)

Angelo Auricchio (Magdeburg, Germany)

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Aldo Pietro Maggioni (Florence, Italy)

Carlos Morillo (Hamilton, Canada)

Ali Oto (Ankara, Turkey)

Eli I. Ovsyshcher (BeerSheva, Israel)

Eric. N. Prystowsky (Indianapolis, USA)

Antonio Raviele (Mestre - Venice, Italy)

Sanjeev Saksena (Millburn, USA)

Massimo Santini (Rome, Italy)

Panos E. Vardas (Heraklion, Greece)

organizing committee

Michele Gulizia

Concetto Cacia

Maura Francese

Salvatore Raciti

Elisabetta Rubino

(Catania, Italy)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
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faculty

- E. Adornato (Reggio Calabria, Italy)
P. Alboni (Cento, Italy)
J. Almendral (Madrid, Spain)
E. Alt (Munich, Germany)
F. Ammirati (Rome, Italy)
A. Auricchio (Magdeburg, Germany)
A. Auteri (Siena, Italy)
A. Bartoloni (Pedara – Catania, Italy)
F. Bellocchi (Rome, Italy)
E. Bertaglia (Mirano, Italy)
A. Bocanelli (Rome, Italy)
M. Bocchiardo (Asti, Italy)
M.G. Bongiorno (Pisa, Italy)
A. Bonso (Mestre - Venice, Italy)
C. Borasteros (Avila, Spain)
G. Boriani (Bologna, Italy)
G.L. Botto (Como, Italy)
J. Brachmann (Coburg, Germany)
G. Buja (Padua, Italy)
A.M. Calafiore (Chieti, Italy)
S. Campione (Catania, Italy)
D. Cannom (Los Angeles, USA)
R. Cappato (S. Donato Milanese, Italy)
F. Caprari (Milan, Italy)
A. Capucci (Piacenza, Italy)
A. Carboni (Parma, Italy)
S. Carerj (Messina, Italy)
G. Castelli (Florence, Italy)
R. Cazzin (Portogruaro, Italy)
G. Chiarandà (Augusta, Italy)
A. Circo (Catania, Italy)
V. Cirrincione (Palermo, Italy)
D. D'Este (Mirano, Italy)
A. Danesi (Rome, Italy)
G. De Ferrari (Pavia, Italy)
P. Delise (Conegliano, Italy)
L. Dei Cas (Brescia, Italy)
G. Di Giammarco (Chieti, Italy)
G. Di Pasquale (Bentivoglio, Italy)
P. Dini (Rome, Italy)
P. Diotallevi (Alessandria, Italy)
M. Disertori (Trento, Italy)
F. Dorticòs (Havana, Cuba)
S. Favale (Bari, Italy)
G.M. Francese (Catania, Italy)
F. Furlanello (Milan - Trento, Italy)
F. Gaita (Turin, Italy)
D. Gascon (Sevilla, Spain)
E. Geraci (Palermo, Italy)
G. Giuffrida (Catania, Italy)
D. Gras (Nantes, France)
M. Gulizia (Catania, Italy)
D. Igidbashian (Legnago, Italy)
G. Inama (Crema, Italy)
G. Jackl (Vienna, Austria)
G. Juavert (Paris, France)
H. Klein (Magdeburg, Germany)
J.P. Le Heuzey (Paris, France)
C. Leclercq (Rennes, France)
F. Lombardi (Milan, Italy)
M.L. Loricchio (Rome, Italy)
B. Lüderitz (Bonn, Germany)
M. Lunati (Milan, Italy)
A. Maggioni (Milan, Italy)
S. Mangiameli (Catania, Italy)
L. Marchioli (S. Maria Imbaro, Italy)
P. Marconi (Florence, Italy)
G. Mascioli (Brescia, Italy)
C. Menozzi (Reggio Emilia, Italy)
A.S. Montenero (Sesto S. Giovanni, Italy)
C. Morillo (Hamilton, Canada)
E. Mossuti (Syracusa, Italy)
A. Mugelli (Florence, Italy)
F. Naccarella (Bologna, Italy)
G. Neri (Montebelluna, Italy)
G. Nicolosi (Pordenone, Italy)
S. Nisam (Diegem, Belgium)
E. Occhetta (Novara, Italy)
A. Oto (Ankara, Turkey)
E. Ovsyshcher (Beer Sheva, Israel)
L. Padeletti (Florence, Italy)
M. Pagani (Milan, Italy)
G. Palazzo (Catania, Italy)
C. Pappone (Milan, Italy)
L. Patanè (Pedara - Catania, Italy)
R. Pedretti (Tradate, Italy)
R.M. Polimeni (Polistena, Italy)
A. Proclemer (Udine, Italy)
E. Prystowsky (Indianapolis, USA)
A. Puglisi (Rome, Italy)
C. Rapezzi (Bologna, Italy)
A. Raviele (Mestre – Venice, Italy)
R. Ricci (Rome, Italy)
V.E. Rubino (Catania, Italy)
S. Saksena (Millburn, USA)
M. Santini (Rome, Italy)
M. Santomauro (Naples, Italy)
M. Scaglione (Asti, Italy)
M. Scherillo (Benevento, Italy)
A. Schuchert (Hamburg, Germany)
L. Sciarra (Portogruaro, Italy)
S. Sermasi (Rimini, Italy)
G. Sinagra (Trieste, Italy)
P. Sogaard (Aarhus, Denmark)
C. Tamburino (Catania, Italy)
H.J. Trappe (Herne, Germany)
P. Vardas (Heraklion, Greece)
G. Vassanelli (Novara, Italy)
C. Vergara (Rovereto, Italy)
M.S. Verzuri (Siena, Italy)
L. Zamparelli (Naples, Italy)
F. Zanon (Rovigo, Italy)
L. Zulli (Rome, Italy)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

invited discussant

- 
- R. Albiero (Palermo, Italy)
 - B. Aloisi (Troina, Italy)
 - E. Badalamenti (Palermo, Italy)
 - I. Bianca (Taormina, Italy)
 - G. Butera (Palermo, Italy)
 - C. Cacia (Catania, Italy)
 - V. Calvi (Catania, Italy)
 - A. Canonico (Palermo, Italy)
 - V. Carini (Catania, Italy)
 - A. Casale (Nicosia, Italy)
 - V.A. Ciconte (Catanzaro, Italy)
 - R. Coco (Catania, Italy)
 - G. Consolo (Messina, Italy)
 - G. Costanza (Canicattì, Italy)
 - E. D' Antonio (Palermo, Italy)
 - A. Dato (Paternò, Italy)
 - C. De Gregorio (Messina, Italy)
 - R. Di Caro (Gela, Italy)
 - P. Di Pasquale (Palermo, Italy)
 - G. Di Tano (Messina, Italy)
 - F. Enia (Palermo, Italy)
 - R. Evola (Taormina, Italy)
 - A. Fiscella (Catania, Italy)
 - A. Galassi (Catania, Italy)
 - A.R. Galassi (Catania, Italy)
 - P. Gambino (Ribera, Italy)
 - S. Giglia (Caltanissetta, Italy)
 - R. Grassi (Messina, Italy)
 - V. Indelicato (Sciacca, Italy)
 - G. Ingianni (Marsala, Italy)
 - M.S. Iudicello (Sant' Agata di Militello, Italy)
 - G.V. Lettiga (Vittoria, Italy)
 - D. Lombardo (Catania, Italy)
 - L. Malluzzo (Canicattì, Italy)
 - M. Moncada (Lentini, Italy)
 - A.V. Panno (Casteldaccia, Italy)
 - C. Pasquale (Siracusa, Italy)
 - L. Pavia (Messina, Italy)
 - F. Perticone (Rome, Italy)
 - S. Raciti (Catania, Italy)
 - A. Rubino (Palermo, Italy)
 - L. Scarnato (S. Cataldo, Italy)
 - R. Siciliano (Giarre, Italy)
 - R. Terrazzino (Licata, Italy)
 - S. Tolaro (Pedara, Italy)
 - M. Traina (Palermo, Italy)
 - I. Vaccaro (Agrigento, Italy)
 - C. Vasco (Enna, Italy)
 - L. Vasquez (Milazzo, Italy)
 - M. Zammataro (Catania, Italy)



Basic Life Support Defibrillation (BLS-D)

Director of the Courses: **A. Danesi (Rome)**

program at a glance

CASTELMOLA
room

THURSDAY,
April 10

FRIDAY,
April 11

SATURDAY,
April 12

9.00 - 13.00

BLS-D Course
Part I

Instructors:
G. Palazzo (Catania)
S. Campione (Catania)
M. Gulizia (Catania)
V.E. Rubino (Catania)

BLS-D Course
Part I

Instructors:
G.M. Francese (Catania)
M. Gulizia (Catania)
G. Palazzo (Catania)

BLS-D Course
Part I

Instructors:
S. Campione (Catania)
G.M. Francese (Catania)
V.E. Rubino (Catania)

13.00 - 14.30

Lunch

14.30 - 18.30

BLS-D Course
Part II

Instructors:
G. Palazzo (Catania)
S. Campione (Catania)
M. Gulizia (Catania)
V.E. Rubino (Catania)

BLS-D Course
Part II

Instructors:
G.M. Francese (Catania)
M. Gulizia (Catania)
G. Palazzo (Catania)

BLS-D Course
Part II

Instructors:
S. Campione (Catania)
G.M. Francese (Catania)
V.E. Rubino (Catania)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

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global program at a glance

THURSDAY,
April 10

ETNA room

TAORMINA room

CASTELMOLA room

8.00 - 10.30

Registration

BLS-D Course - part I
9.00 - 13.00

11.00 - 13.00

Minicourse
Atrial Arrhythmias: Drugs,
Devices or Ablation for the
Prevention and the
Treatment of the
Recurrences?

Minicourse
In- and Outhospital
Management of Heart
Failure patients

13.00 - 15.00

MEDTRONIC
Luncheon Panel
Multidisciplinary Approach
on Cardiac
Resynchronisation in Heart
Failure patients

BLS-D Course - part II
14.30 - 18.30

15.00 - 17.00

Symposium
Atrial Fibrillation & Heart
Failure: the chicken-egg
dilemma

3M Interactive
Satellite Symposium
Atrial Fibrillation Therapy:
from fiction to facts

17.00 - 17.30

Opening ceremony

17.30 - 18.15

Lecture
Sudden Death Prevention
in Heart Failure: which role
for ICD?

18.30

Welcome Cocktail

FRIDAY, April 11	ETNA room	TAORMINA room	CASTELMOLA room
9.00 - 10.30	Symposium State of the Art in the Current Trends and Treatments of Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter	<i>Intercultural Exchanges on AF Therapy</i>	BLS-D Course - part I 9.00 - 13.00
10.30 - 11.00	Exhibition visit & Coffee break		
11.00 - 13.00	MEDTRONIC Satellite Symposium Hot Topics in Tachycardia Management	<i>Intercultural Exchanges on AF & HF Management</i>	
13.00 - 14.30	GUIDANT Luncheon Panel The role of Electrical Therapy in patients with left ventricular dysfunction	MEDICO Luncheon Panel New Advances in Bi-Ventricular Pacing	
14.30 - 16.30	BIOTRONIK Satellite Symposium New Approaches in Electrical Treatment and Management of Heart Failure patients	VITATRON Satellite Symposium Innovative Pacing Techniques: Solutions for AF and HF	BLS-D Course - part II 14.30 - 18.30
16.30 - 17.00	Exhibition visit & Coffee break		
17.00 - 18.30	Symposium Is there still a role for Cardioversion in AF patients?	<i>Intercultural Exchanges on CHF Resynchronisation</i>	
20.00	Gala Dinner		

SATURDAY, April 12	ETNA room	TAORMINA room	CASTELMOLA room
9.00 - 10.30	Symposium Ultimate and Ongoing Trials on Heart Failure		BLS-D Course - part I 9.00 - 13.00
10.30 - 11.00	Exhibition visit & Coffee break		
11.00 - 13.00	SEARLE - PHARMACIA Division Satellite Symposium Pufa n-3: present and future role	Symposium Implantable Devices for Atrial Arrhythmias: are those with Continuous Monitoring Function changing the Management of Paroxysmal AF patients?	
13.00 - 14.30	SANOFI-SYNTHELABO Luncheon Panel New concepts in the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation		
14.30 - 16.30	Symposium 10 Years of Biventricular Pacing in CHF: much more than a promise?	A.I.A.C. Symposium Hybrid therapy in AF and HF	BLS-D Course - part II 14.30 - 18.30



8.00-10.30 Registration

11.00 – 13.00

Minicourse

etna room

**Atrial Arrhythmias: Drugs, Devices or Ablation
for the Prevention and the Treatment of the Recurrences ?**

Chairmen: E. Adornato (Reggio Calabria), C. Tamburino (Catania)

11.00 Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter:
sympathetic nervous system and arrhythmogenesis
F. Lombardi (Milan)

11.15 Current Approach and Treatment in Acute Atrial Fibrillation
G. Chiarandà (Augusta)

11.30 Pacing, ICD or both for the hybrid therapy of Atrial Arrhythmias?
G. Boriani (Bologna)

11.45 Management of referred Syncopal Episodes
in patients with Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation
F. Ammirati (Rome)

12.00 Is there still a role for right atrial ablation in patients with AF ?
M.L. Loricchio (Rome)

12.15 Surgical treatment of Atrial Fibrillation during
mitral valve surgery
L. Patané (Pedara – Catania)

Invited discussants:

I. Bianca (Taormina)

V. Carini (Catania)

A. Casale (Nicosia)

C. De Gregorio (Messina)

A. Galassi (Catania)



11.00 – 13.00

Minicourse

**In- and Outhospital Management
of Heart Failure patients**

Chairmen: V. Cirrincione (Palermo), R. Pedretti (Tradate)

11.00

Ace-Inhibitors, beta-blockers, spironolattone:
do we need much more drugs to treat chronic Heart Failure?

G. Sinagra (Trieste)

11.15

Non-invasive evaluation and early treatment of Heart Failure patients

M. Scherillo (Benevento)

11.30

The problem of recreational sport
in patient with mild to moderate Heart Failure

F. Furlanello (Milan-Trento)

11.45

Wireless home monitoring on permanent cardiac stimulation:
is it especially suitable in CHF patients?

D. Igidbashian (Legnago)

12.00

Organizational and economical point of view
in the management of CHF patient

R. Pedretti (Tradate)

12.15

Electromagnetic interferences in Biventricular and/or ICD paced patients

M. Santomauro (Naples)

Invited discussants:

R. Coco (Catania)

A. Dato (Paternò)

R. Evola (Taormina)

S. Raciti (Catania)



10
April

13.00-15.00

Medtronic Luncheon Panel

etna room

**Multidisciplinary Approach to Heart Failure and
Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy**

Chairmen: E. Ovsyshcher (Beer Sheva), A. Puglisi (Rome)

13.00

The selection of patients for cardiac resynchronisation therapy
D. Gras (Nantes)

13.20

The perspective of the emergency department
L. Zulli (Rome)

13.40

Which is the role of internal medicine in the identification
of candidates for cardiac resynchronisation therapy ?
M. Pagani (Milan)

14.00

Biventricular resynchronisation in cardiac surgery
A.M. Calafiore, G. Di Giammarco (Chieti)

Invited discussants:

G. Costanza (Canicattì)

F. Enia (Palermo)

S. Giglia (Caltanissetta)

C. Vasco (Enna)

M. Zammataro (Catania)



15.00-17.00

Symposium

**Atrial Fibrillation & Heart Failure:
the chicken – egg dilemma**

Chairmen: D. Cannon (Los Angeles), S. Mangiameli (Catania)

15.00

Atrial and ventricular instability in Heart Failure patients
R. Cappato (San Donato Milanese)

15.15

Type of Therapy and Quality of Life in Atrial Fibrillation
B. Lüderitz (Bonn)

15.30

Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation in Chronic Heart Failure patient:
facts or fancy?
F. Gaita (Turin)

15.45

Advances in electrical therapy: multisite atrial and ventricular pacing for
treatment and prevention of Atrial Fibrillation in CHF patients?
S. Saksena (Millburn)

16.00

Risk - stratification in Heart Failure patients with different disease severity
A. Oto (Ankara)

16.15

Surgical treatment of end-stage CHF
A. Bartoloni (Pedara - Catania)

16.30

Final discussion

Invited discussants:

R. Albierno (Palermo)

V. Calvi (Catania)

V. Indelicato (Sciacca)

F. Perticone (Rome)

M. Traina (Palermo)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

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Thursday, April 10 afternoon

10
April

Taormina room

15.00-17.00

3M Interactive Satellite Symposium
Atrial Fibrillation therapy: from fiction to facts

Chairmen: A. Auteri (Siena), C. Morillo (Hamilton)

15.00

Pharmacological cardioversion to sinus rhythm of recent onset paroxysmal atrial fibrillation in the emergency room
M.S. Verzuri (Siena)

15.20

Non-pharmacological therapy of AF:
evidence and future perspectives
M. Scaglione (Asti)

15.40

The AFFIRM study and its implications
for the pharmacological treatment of AF
A. Capucci (Piacenza)

16.00

Antiarrhythmic agents in atrial fibrillation:
a new role in the context of a hybrid approach?
G. Boriani (Bologna)

Invited discussants:
A. Dato (Paternò)
G. Ingianni (Marsala)
L. Malluzzo (Canicatti)
L. Pavia (Messina)
S. Tolaro (Pedara)

Opening ceremony

etna room

17.00-17.30

Opening ceremony
Welcoming addresses

17.30-18.15

Lecture:
Sudden Death Prevention in Heart Failure: which role for ICD ?
A. Raviele (Mestre – Venice)

18.30

Welcome Cocktail



9.00-10.30

Symposium

**State of the Art in the current Trends and Treatments
of Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter**

Chairmen: G. Jauvert (Paris), A. Raviele (Mestre-Venice)

9.00

Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter:
new insights into electrophysiologic mechanisms
E. Prystowsky (Indianapolis)

9.15

Pharmacologic therapy of Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter:
advances and limitations of specific antiarrhythmic drugs
P. Alboni (Cento)

9.30

Atrial Fibrillation and Flutter:
latest from the planet of right RF-catheter Ablation
M. Lunati (Milan)

9.45

Optimal pacing system for the prevention of Atrial Fibrillation
M. Santini (Rome)

10.00

Circumferential Pulmonary Vein Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation improves
Mortality, Morbidity and Quality of Life?
C. Pappone (Milan)

Invited discussants:

V.A. Cicone (Catanzaro)

G. Di Tano (Messina)

G.V. Lettiga (Vittoria)

C. Pasquale (Siracusa)

L. Vasquez (Milazzo)



9.00-10.30

Intercultural Exchanges
AF Therapy

Taormina Room

Chairmen: C. Morillo (Hamilton), F. Naccarella (Bologna)

11
April

9.00

Benefits of Radiofrequency Ablation and Dual Chamber Pacing For Third Degree Atrioventricular Block Associated with Common Type Atrial Flutter: a two cases report.

M. Leoncini, R. Mureddu, M. Piana, A. Ranise S. Acquarone, G. Musso
Imperia, Italy

9.15

Ablate and Pace procedure: a cost-efficacy analysis.

G. Mascioli, A. Curnis, L. Bontempi, T. Bordonali, L. De Luca, L.M. Culot, F. Costa, L. Dei Cas.
Brescia, Italy

9.30

Quality of Life (Qol) Improvement in patients with CLASS 2 indication to RF Ablation.

A. Curnis, L. Bontempi, T. Bordonali, LM. Culot, M. Racheli, F. Costa, G. Mascioli, L. Dei Cas
Brescia, Italy

9.45

Assessing the electromagnetic compatibility of a welding machine in a patient with a DDD PM equipped with algorithms for AF prevention

M.F. Pasqualini, M.C. Brunazzi, M. Trombetti, S. Reggiani
Pieve di Coriano (MN), Italy

10.00

Optimal definition of the Atrial Fibrillation burden using the diagnostic algorithms of the St Jude Medical pacemakers.

G.H. Mairesse, R. Campagnolo, M. Emonts, JI. Pasquay, K. Mitri
Arlon, Belgium

10.15

Amiodarone and Diltiazem as a single oral dose versus Placebo for the conversion of recent Atrial Fibrillation

A. Kondili, I. Balla, F. Shatri Artur Gaçe
Tirana, Albania



11.00-13.00

Medtronic Satellite Symposium
Hot Topics in Tachyarrhythmias management

etna room

Chairmen: M. Gulizia (Catania), M. Santini (Rome)

11.00

The impact of LocaLisa on ablation management
J. Almendral (Madrid)

11.25

The role of septal pacing in a large cohort of AF patients with bradycardia:
how to maximize the clinical outcome with device therapy?
L. Padeletti (Florence)

11.50

Device therapy for atrial arrhythmias:
latest topics from AT500 Italian Registry
G.L. Botto (Como)

12.15

Can dual defibrillator improves quality of life and hospitalisations
in patients with drug-refractory atrial fibrillation?
R. Ricci (Rome)

12.40

MADIT II in the clinical practice today
P. Vardas (Heraklion)

Invited discussants:

R. Albiero (Palermo)
E. Badalamenti (Palermo)
S. Giglia (Caltanissetta)
L. Scarnato (San Cataldo)
I. Vaccaro (Agrigento)



11.00-13.00 *Intercultural Exchanges*
AF & HF Management

Chairmen: E. Mossuti (Siracusa), S. Sermasi (Rimini)

April 11

- 11.00 Advantages and limitations of Interventional Closure of Atrial Septal Defects in Adults with Amplatzer Device -A single center Experience in 250 Consecutive Patients
T. Trepels, S. Ostermayer, K. Billinger, E. Zadan, K. Horvath, U. Krumsdorf, H.Sievert
Frankfurt, Germany
- 11.15 Percutaneous Occlusion of the Left Atrial Appendage - A novel technique to prevent thromboembolism in Patients with Chronical Atrial Fibrillation
T. Trepels, S. Ostermayer, K. Billinger, U. Krumsdorf, M. Lesh, T. Nakai, H. Omran, A. Bartorelli, P. Della Bella, M. Reisman, W. Gray, C. Di Mario, P. Block, P. Kramer, D. Williams, A. Poppas, A. Skanes, B. Meier, D. Scherer, H. Sievert
Frankfurt, Germany
- 11.30 Investigations into the prognostic stratification, management and evolution towards Heart Failure, of non Q-wave miocardial infarction. Role of echodopplergraphy perfusion study.
P. Gruppillo, P. Marchi, G. Chiavacci, M. Bertusi, M. Zappi
Ferrara, Italy
- 11.45 Cardiac Troponin I in Chronic Heart Failure
N. Siniscalchi, A. Di Napoli, E. Martucci, R. Di Napoli, T. Cerciello, A. Grassia
Naples, Italy
- 12.00 Nebivolol in the Complex Therapy of Dilated Cardiomyopathy Patients with Severe Heart Failure
R.D. Kurbonov, N.A. Kurbonov, T.A. Abdullaev, E.V. Kiyakbaeva, I.R. Prokhorova, R. Sh. Bekbulatova, N.P. Ganieva
Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- 12.15 New Pharmacological Treatments of Acutely Decompensated Heart Failure. Critical Review Of New Drug Options.
F. Naccarella, G. Naccarelli, S. Sdringola Maranga, G. Lepera, E. Ambrosiani, C. Borghi, G. Arpesella
Bologna, Italy



13.00 –14.30

Guidant Luncheon Panel

**The role of Electrical Therapy
in patients with left ventricular dysfunction**

etna room

Chairmen: D. D'Este (Mirano), H. Klein (Magdeburg)

13.00

Clinical cardiologist's experience
S. Favale (Bari)

13.15

The electrophysiological aspect
E. Bertaglia (Mirano)

13.30

The role of echocardiography
P. Sogaard (Aarhus)

13.45

Integrated therapies for Heart Failure and sudden death
in Ischemic Cardiopathy
C. Leclercq (Rennes)

14.00

Integrated therapies for Heart Failure and sudden death
in Dilatative Cardiopathy
A. Auricchio (Magdeburg)

Invited discussants:

V. Carini (Catania)

P. Gambino (Ribera)

M.S. Iudicello (S. Agata di Militello)

A. Rubino (Palermo)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

Friday, April 11 afternoon

13.00 –14.30

Medico Luncheon Panel

New Advances in Biventricular Pacing

Taormina room

Chairmen: G. Buja (Padua), D. Gascon (Sevilla)

11
April

13.00

Clinical issues in the ventricular synchronisation therapy of HF

C. Borasteros (Avila)

13.20

The lead for electrical resynchronisation: evolution technique

G. Mascioli (Brescia)

13.40

Improving Biventricular sensing function

F. Dorticòs (Havana)

14.00

Multisite LV stimulation

G. Neri (Montebelluna)

Invited discussants:

G. Butera (Palermo)

V. Calvi (Catania)

L. Malluzzo (Canicatti)

I. Vaccaro (Agrigento)



etna room

- 14.30-16.30 *Biotronik Satellite Symposium*
**New approaches in electrical treatment
and management of HF patients**
- Chairmen: R. Cazzin (Portogruaro), S. Saksena (Millburn)*
- 14.30 Benefits of Closed Loop Stimulation in resynchronisation therapy
P. Diotallevi (Alessandria)
- 14.45 Dual site RV pacing in HF patients with permanent AF
L. Zamparelli (Napoli)
- 15.00 Optimization of resynchronisation therapy
by intracardiac ventricular impedance
M. Bocchiardo (Asti)
- 15.15 The role of Home Monitoring in Management of HF patients
G. Jackl (Vienna)
- 15.30 The role of "single shock" ICD for sudden death primary prevention
in HF patients
J. Brachmann (Coburg)
- 15.45 Biventricular Pacing: a Simplified Technique for Transvenous Implantation
L. Sciarra (Portogruaro)

Invited discussants:

V.A. Cicone (Catanzaro)

V. Indelicato (Sciacca)

L. Pavia (Messina)

R. Terrazzino (Licata)



14.30-16.30

Vitatron Satellite Symposium

Taormina room

Innovative pacing techniques: solutions for AF and HF

Chairmen: M.G. Bongiorni (Pisa), D. Gras (Nantes)

11
April

14.30

Pacing in AF: therapies for rhythm control

A. Carboni (Parma)

14.50

Pacing in AF: therapies for rate control

A. Schuchert (Hamburg)

15.10

Incidence and diagnosis of AF in patients with Heart Failure

G. Mascioli (Brescia)

15.30

What have we learned from CRT trials?

F. Zanon (Rovigo)

15.50

Novel treatment options in patients suffering from Heart Failure and AF

A. Auricchio (Magdeburg)

Invited discussants:

B. Aloisi (Troina)

R. Di Caro (Gela)

D. Lombardo (Catania)

R. Siciliano (Giarre)



17.00 18.30

Symposium

Is there still a role for cardioversion in AF patients ?

Chairmen: E. Alt (Munich), A. Capucci (Piacenza)

17.00

ESC-Guidelines for Atrial Fibrillation: what far from clinical practice?
J.P. Le Heuzey (Paris)

17.15

Which drugs, which doses in the Pharmacological Cardioversion of Atrial Fibrillation lasted less than 48 hours?
C. Morillo (Hamilton)

17.30

Is Fluoroscopic Electrode Positioning improving clinical efficacy of External Biphasic Cardioversion in AF patients?
P. Marconi, G. Castelli (Florence)

17.45

Always Transesophageal Echocardiography before Cardioversion of AF patients after conventional Anticoagulant strategy?
G.L. Nicolosi (Pordenone)

18.00

Anticoagulation therapy of Atrial Fibrillation in the Elderly
G. Di Pasquale (Bentivoglio)

Invited discussants:

P. Di Pasquale (Palermo)

F. Enia (Palermo)

M. Moncada (Lentini)

A.V. Panno (Casteldaccia)

C. Vasco (Enna)



17.00-18.30

Intercultural Exchanges
CHF Resynchronisation

Taormina room

Chairmen: A. Circo (Catania), A. Puglisi (Rome)

11
April

17.00

Some evidences of ECG in dilated cardiomyopathy patients
E.V. Kiyakbaeva, T.A. Abdullaev, N.A. Kurbanov, I.R. Prokhorova
Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

17.15

Patients with Heart Failure (HF), Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy (IDC) and left bundle branch block get the greatest benefit and live longer with cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT)
M. Lunati, M. Frigerio, F. Oliva, M. Paolucci, G. Magenta, G. Cattafi, R. Vecchi, E. Vitali, I. Vicini, T. De Santo
Milan, Italy

17.30

Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy in "Narrow QRS" patients
M. Sassari, A. Achilli, D. Pontillo, S. Ficili, P. Achilli, L. Serraino, F. Serra, F. Benvissuto, E. D'Ettore, L. Sallusti
Viterbo, Italy

17.45

Cardiac resynchronisation therapy in Heart Failure: do we need back-up shock?
R. Ricci, G. Ansalone, C. Pignalberi, M. Russo, B. Magris, L. Santini, M. Santini
Rome, Italy

18.00

Dual Chamber/Single Chamber ICD indications: Dual Chamber ICD and/or Biventricular Pacing in patients with CHF
F. Naccarella, G. Naccarelli, S. Sdringola Maranga, G. Lepera, G. Arpesella
Bologna, Italy

18.15

Organization Project for precocious semiautomatic in-hospital defibrillation (Naples Heart Project)
M. Santomauro, L. Ottaviano, A. Borrelli, D. Da Prato, A. Costanzo, P. Tommasini, C. Riganti, L. Quagliata, M. Chiariello
Naples, Italy



9.00-10.30

Symposium

Ultimate and Ongoing Trials on Heart Failure

Chairmen: A. Auricchio (Magdeburg), A. Boccanelli (Rome)

9.00

Epidemiology of Heart Failure: where have we got up to?
Lessons from databases

F. Naccarella (Bologna)

9.15

Pharmacological Trials on Heart Failure:
what can we translate into the daily Clinical Practice?

A.P. Maggioni (Milano)

9.30

SCD-HeFT, COMPANION, CARE-HF and surroundings

D. Cannom (Los Angeles)

9.45

The Management of Atrial fibrillation Suppression
in AF-HF COmorbidity Therapy

M.G. Bongiorni (Pisa)

10.00

New ICD perspectives in the congestive HF patient

H.J. Trappe (Herne)

Invited discussants:

I. Bianca (Taormina)

R. Grassi (Messina)

G. Ingianni (Marsala)

M. Moncada (Lentini)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

saturday, april 12 morning

11.00-13.00

SEARLE – Pharmacia Division Satellite Symposium
PUFA n-3: present and future role

etna room

Chairmen: E. Geraci (Palermo), G. Giuffrida (Catania)

11.00

Physiopathology and prevention of SCD
L. Dei Cas (Brescia)

11.30

Antiarrhythmogenic effect
A. Mugelli (Florence)

12.00

Metabolic hypothesis in HF
R. Marchioli (S. Maria Imbaro)

Invited discussants:

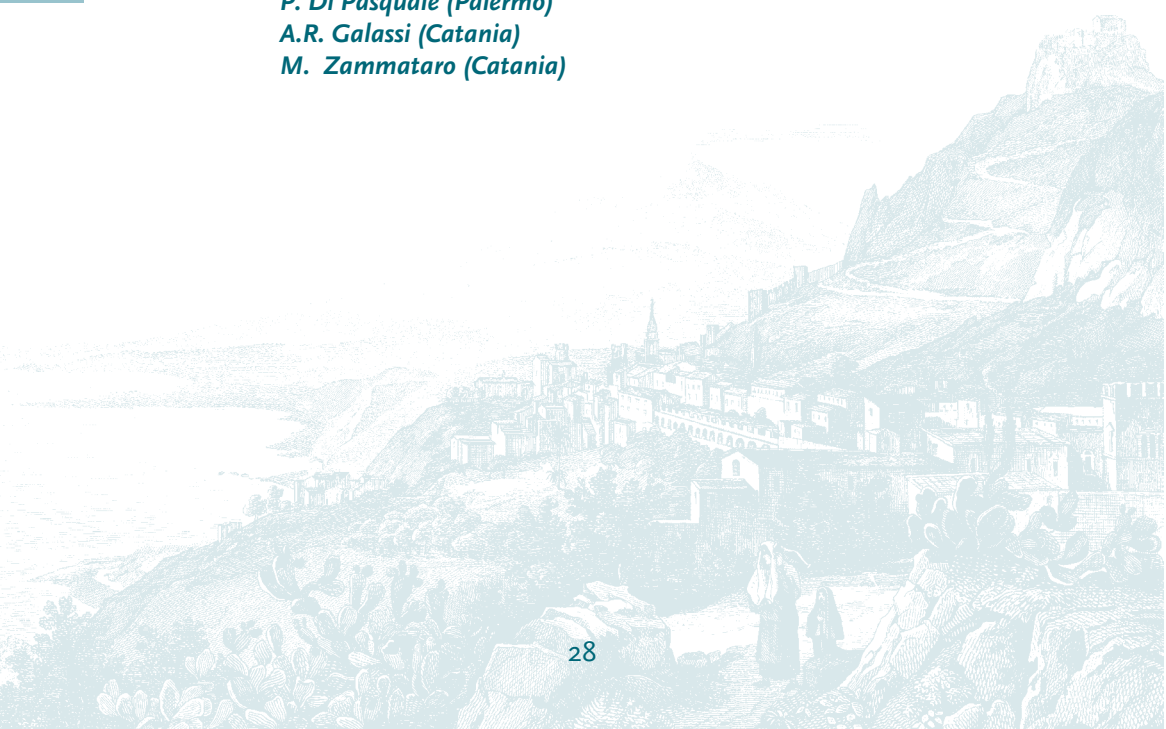
A. Canonico (Palermo)

P. Di Pasquale (Palermo)

A.R. Galassi (Catania)

M. Zammataro (Catania)

12
April





11.00-13.00

Symposium

**Implantable Devices for Atrial Arrhythmias:
are those with Continuous Monitoring Function changing
the Management of Paroxysmal AF patients?**

Chairmen: M. Disertori (Trento), S. Sermasi (Rimini)

11.00

Role of Implantable Loop Recorder
in the management of Atrial Fibrillation patients
A.S. Montenero (Sesto San Giovanni)

11.15

Different pacing algorithms for the Prevention of Atrial Fibrillation:
special features of one compared to the others?
E. Ovshyscher (Beer Sheva)

11.30

Does stimulation site improve efficacy of Prevention and/or AntiTachy
Pacing in patients with Atrial Arrhythmias?
A. Capucci (Piacenza)

11.45

Drug-device interaction for Pacing, Prevention and Therapies:
the PITAGORA study
M. Gulizia (Catania)

12.00

Ultimate and ongoing trials on Device Therapy of Atrial Fibrillation
P. Delise (Conegliano)

12.15

Selection criteria for Atrial Fibrillation patients
candidates to a Dual-Site ICD
E. Occhetta (Novara)

Invited discussants:

G. Butera (Palermo)
G. Costanza (Canicatti)
R. Di Caro (Gela)
P. Gambino (Ribera)
G.V. Lettiga (Vittoria)



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Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

saturday, april 12 morning

13.00-14.30

Luncheon Panel Sanofi-Synthelabo

etna room

New concepts in the treatment of Atrial Fibrillation

Chairmen: J.P. Le Heuzey (Paris), A. Raviele (Mestre-Venice)

13.00

Risk stratification in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation and CHF

C. Rapezzi (Bologna)

13.20

Rhythm-control versus rate-control strategy:
unsolved riddle in the daily clinical practice?

F. Gaita (Turin)

13.40

Amiodarone in the treatment of AF:
new perspectives from clinical trials

G. De Ferrari (Pavia)

Invited discussants:

B. Aloisi (Troina)

A. Canonico (Palermo)

E. D'Antonio (Palermo)

R. Terrazzino (Licata)

S. Tolaro (Pedara)

12
April



14.30-16.30

Symposium

etna room

**10 Years of Biventricular Pacing in CHF:
much more than a promise?**

Chairmen: M. Bocchiardo (Asti), P. Vardas (Heraklion)

14.30

Echocardiography in the identification of responders:
the novel role of Tissue Doppler and Strain Imaging
S. Carerj (Messina)

14.45

When and what CHF patient need to be studied in hemodynamic laboratory
C. Vassanelli (Novara)

15.00

Performing the implantation: lights and shadows of different methods
G. Vergara (Rovereto)

15.15

How to follow the resynchronised paced patients
F. Bellocci (Rome)

15.30

Biventricular Pacing with ICD backup: a luxury or a necessity?
S. Nisam (Diegem)

15.45

Costs and effectiveness of Biventricular Pacing
F. Caprari (Milan)

Invited discussants:

C. Cacia (Catania)

C. De Gregorio (Messina)

G. Di Tano (Messina)

A. Fiscella (Catania)

12
April



editerranean
ardiology
eeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

saturday, april 12 afternoon

14.30-16.30

AIAC Symposium
Hybrid therapy in AF and HF

taormina room

Chairmen: G. Inama (Crema), C. Menozzi (Reggio Emilia)

14.30

Drugs as pre-treatment of electrical cardioversion
G.L. Botto (Como)

14.45

Drugs and Pacemakers in AF and HF patients
R.M. Polimeni (Polistena)

12
April

15.00

Ablate and biventricular pacing: when and why?
A. Proclemer (Udine)

15.15

Drugs and Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators in AF and HF patients
P. Dini (Rome)

15.30

Drugs and Ablation in AF and HF patients
A. Bonso (Mestre – Venice)

15.45

May ventricular resynchronisation reduce AF recurrences?
M.G. Bongiorni (Pisa)

Invited discussants:

A. Casale (Nicosia)

G. Consolo (Messina)

A.R. Galassi (Catania)

C. Pasquale (Siracusa)

L. Vasquez (Milazzo)



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

scientific information

INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGES

Intercultural Exchanges topics are: Atrial Fibrillation Therapy, Atrial Fibrillation & Heart Failure Management, Congestive Heart Failure Resynchronisation.

The presentation time will be 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes for discussion.

Presentation will be given in the **English Language only, supported by PC data projection.**

All projections must be **worded in English only.**

All speakers are requested to keep to their allotted time. Please ensure that you are in your session room at least 10 minutes before the start of the session, and that you remain there until the end of the session.

During the opening ceremony, two of the best abstracts chosen among the ones submitted, will be awarded a prize, sponsored by Mortara Rangoni.

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

The Meeting proceedings containing the texts of presentations of the different sessions included in the Scientific Program will be published by Springer - Verlag and distributed to all registrants, during the Meeting.

PROJECTION

PC data projection is available in all the rooms. Please copy your work (using Power Point) onto a CD ROM, and to be on the safe side, bring also your lap-top with you. All projections must be **worded in English only.**

The speaker ready room will be at disposal of presenters and faculty to give them the opportunity to preview the projection and become familiar with the audio-visual equipment. **All speakers must deliver the presentation in floppy disk or CD ROM at least 6 hours before the session at the slide centre.**

LUNCHEON PANELS

Attendance at all luncheon panels (limited to seat availability) is free for all registered participants. Only for Medico luncheon panel is required an invitation.

ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

Attendance certificates will be distributed to all registered delegates on Saturday, April 12, 2003.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

ECM: we have requested to be granted educational credits (C.E.M.) by the National Commission for Continuous Education. The Meeting has been appointed by **10 ECM credits.**

Only participants with a minimum of 17 hours of attendance will receive the ECM certificates.

BLS-D Courses have been appointed by 9 ECM credits.



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

general information

CONGRESS VENUE

Hotel Villa Diodoro

Via Bagnoli Croci, 75
98039 Taormina (Me)

Ph. +39/0942/23312

Fax +39/0942/23391

Web site: www.gaishotels.com/diodoro

ORGANISING SECRETARIAT

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Web site: www.adriacongrex.it

SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

Michele Gulizia

Cardiology Unit

S. Luigi – S. Currò Hospital

Catania – Italy

Ph. +39/095/7169515

Fax +39/095/7120662

e-mail: michele.gulizia@tin.it

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the Meeting is **English**. However a service of simultaneous translation will be offered for some sessions in the Etna Room.

EXHIBITION

The technical and pharmaceutical exhibitions will be located at the Congress Venue, close to the Conference rooms. The exhibition opening hours will follow the timetable of the Scientific Sessions.

TELEPHONES and CELLPHONES

Several telephones are available at the Congress Venue. Please contact the Hotel Reception. **It is absolutely forbidden to keep cellphones switched on during Scientific Sessions.**



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

general information

INFORMATION DESK

An information desk will be available at the Congress Venue for restaurant reservations, travel services and general information about Taormina.

REGISTRATION

Delegate	€ 420,00 VAT incl.
Accompanying person	€ 250,00 VAT incl.
BLS-D Course	€ 170,00 VAT incl.

The delegate registration fee includes:

Attendance at all scientific sessions including luncheon panels (limited to seat availability), entrance to the exhibition area, meeting proceedings, attendance certificate, ECM certificate, gala dinner, badge and congress kit, welcome cocktail, and the coffee breaks taken at the Venue.

The accompanying person registration fee includes:

Entrance to the exhibition area, welcome cocktail, half day excursion and gala dinner.

The BLS-D Course registration fee includes:

Participation to the Course (from 9.00 to 18.30), entrance to the exhibition area, BLS-D licence, ECM certificate, coffee breaks and light lunch taken at the Venue. Maximum 36 participants assigned on first come first served basis, after the full payment of the charge.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Participants who have not made an advance reservation for accommodation may be able to do so at the Hotel Reservation Desk at the Congress Venue.

At the moment of reservation, we will charge a reservation fee of € 20,00 Vat included (for each room reserved), and a hotel deposit corresponding to the amount of one night's Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

The deposit will be deduced from the hotel bill. The hotel will provide official receipts for the whole sum.

PAYMENT CONDITIONS

Payments accepted are: cheque written on Italian Banks and Bank transfer in Euro.
All costs to transmitters' charge.



CANCELLATION POLICY

No refund of any kind.

CHANGES OF PROGRAM

For scientific and/or technical reasons the Scientific Committee and the Organising Secretariat reserve the right to make any change in the Meeting program.

SOCIAL EVENTS

TAORMINA SIGHTSEEING (HALF DAY) - for accompanying persons only

Settled on a hill of the Monte Tauro, Taormina dominates two grand, sweeping bays on the southern side, the top of Mount Etna, offering a breathtaking, dramatic and view over almost one hundred miles of Mediterranean sea.

This itinerary will give the possibility to discover the history and the magical atmosphere of Taormina walking through Corso Umberto I. It is a lively street that runs through the town, flanked on either side by elegant shop and café and it links Porta Messina to Porta Catania.

The civic and religious monuments are concentrated along and around Corso Umberto I: Vittorio Emanuele Square, Corvaja Palace, St. Caterina Church and the Roman Odeum, Roman Baths, Naumachie, IX Aprile Square, St. Agostino Church, Ciampoli Palace, Mother Church, Palace of the Dukes of St. Stephen.

The visit will continue to the Greek-Roman Theatre. It was built in Greek times, later enlarged and almost entirely rebuilt by Romans in the second century AD. From the caved, set in a hollow in Monte Tauro, is the view that is as famous as it is beautiful.

The visit will begin at 9.30 a.m. starting from Hotel Villa Diodoro, the Congress Venue.

GALA DINNER

Old Sicilian Gastronomical Itinerary at Xirumi Castle

For hundreds of years, the castle of Xirumi-Serravalle has been the property of the Barons Grimaldi di Serravalle, part of one of the oldest noble families of Sicily.

At one time the nerve centre of the Xirumi estate covering hundreds of hectares, today the castle is surrounded by one of the largest citrus groves in Sicily (200 hectares) and is still owned by the family.

The estate also includes a Late Stone Age necropolis, an area of great historical and archaeological interest.

Dating back to the 16th century, the building consists of an internal courtyard (300 m²) onto which open a granary and storerooms, and the "palmento" and "frantoio" (where grapes and olives are pressed).

The castle looks out onto a spacious garden of palms and Mediterranean flora and is available for use in summer. Finally, there is a charming consecrated church in the grounds. In the Xirumi Castle will be held the Gala Dinner "Old Sicilian Gastronomical Itinerary" on April 11, 2003.

Shuttle service leaves at 19.45 from the Congress Venue, with a return trip at about midnight.



Mediterranean Cardiology Meeting

Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

practical information

ELECTRICITY

The electric current in Italy is 220 Volts.

TIPPING

Service is generally included in the bill. However, tips are very welcome if you wish to show your appreciation for a good meal or special service.

CREDIT CARDS

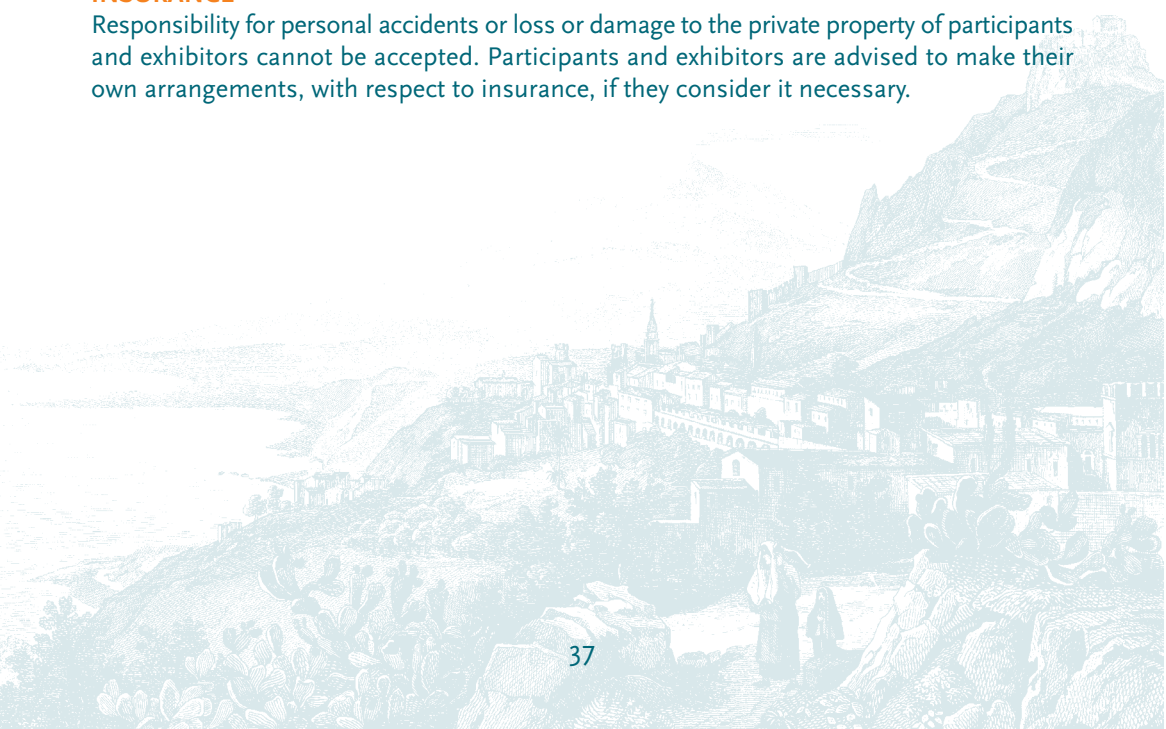
Major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants and shops. Should you wish to use your credit card to pay for a taxi, please inform the driver before starting the journey.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Taormina is as safe as any other European tourist resort, delegates are simply advised to take the usual sensible precautions. All the hotels can offer security facilities for valuable goods.

INSURANCE

Responsibility for personal accidents or loss or damage to the private property of participants and exhibitors cannot be accepted. Participants and exhibitors are advised to make their own arrangements, with respect to insurance, if they consider it necessary.





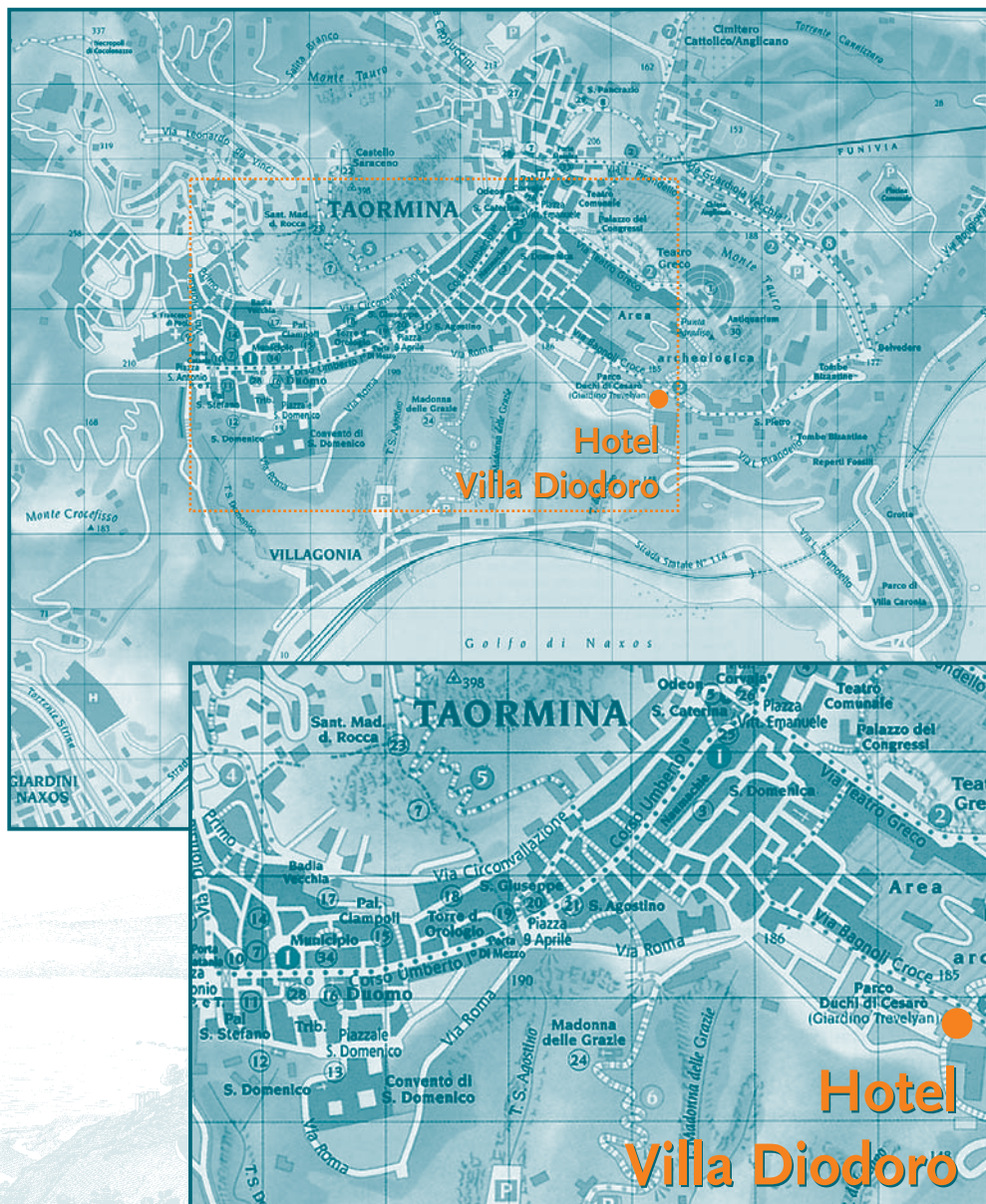
**A grateful thanks to the following Companies
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Sanofi-Synthelabo
St. Jude Medical
Vitatron**



Taormina,
April 10 - 12 2003

practical information



www.adriacongrex.it/cardiologymeeting2003

