

12-14 April  
**2018**  
Genoa



*Scientific endorsement by*



# XVII

## MEDITERRANEAN CONGRESS OF RHEUMATOLOGY



**EFFECTS OF THE DIET AND THE CLIMATE IN RHEUMATIC  
AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES**

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

## PATRONAGES



Italian Society of Rheumatology  
(Società Italiana di Reumatologia – SIR)



European League Against  
the Rheumatism (EULAR)



The University of Genoa



The Department of internal medicine  
and medical specialties (DiMI),  
University of Genoa



The IRCCS Polyclinic Hospital  
San Martino Genoa

12-14 April  
**2018**  
Genoa

## WELCOME



*From at least 2,000 years the Mediterranean area with the connected Black and Red Sea populations has been the “CRIB” of the culture, science and good life.*

### What means good life?

What means good life? Good life mean an acceptable style of life, even modest but healthy, and of course, it includes good food and good climate! Today, we recognize that, among the multiple risk factors involved in the development of several diseases, environmental and nutritional components play an important role. The rheumatic diseases are among the most common diseases in the general population and the effects of wrong diets and non healthy environment/ style of life, are recognized as important promoters for their development. Correct diet represents also part of a correct management of the Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Diseases. Already from the beginning, the Mediterranean Congress of Rheumatology has presented the experiences regarding the characteristics of the Rheumatic Diseases in

such area, and comparing their epidemiology among the European countries. This 2018 edition of the Congress will focus about the effects of the diet and the climate on the most frequent Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases, including their early diagnosis and advanced therapies. The Congress topics will be discussed in sequential sessions and will include appropriate presentations on nutritional and environmental factors that will integrate the clinical and drug treatment lectures. Of course, participants will have the occasion to taste personally in spring time, the therapeutical effects of the Mediterranean diet and climate “available” for all participants during the Congress that will be held in the Old Harbour of Genoa.

### CONGRESS CHAIRPERSON

**M. Cutolo** Genoa, Italy

On the behalf of the Board of the Mediterranean Congress of Rheumatology  
and of Italian Society of Rheumatology

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**A. Tincani** Brescia, Italy  
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### LOCAL

**P. Comanducci**  
*Rector University of Genoa*  
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*CEO of the Polyclinic Hospital San Martino*  
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*Congress Medical Link Officer at the Liguria Government*  
**M. Cutolo**  
*Director Division of Rheumatology - DiMI*

### MEDICAL TEAM

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 University of Genoa  
**A. Sulli**  
**S. Paolino**  
**C. Pizzorni**  
**M. Ghio**  
**B. Ruaro**  
**M.A. Cimmino**



## PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE

### THURSDAY April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

hrs	PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM	LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM	TRAMONTANA ROOM
11.00	Opening Registrations and Exhibition		
13.30-14.00	OPENING CEREMONY		
14.00-14.30	LECTURE: The diet in rheumatic autoimmune diseases: a recipe for therapy?		
14.30-15.40	FIRST SESSION Early Rheumatoid Arthritis	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	
15.40-16.10	LECTURE Mediterranean Diet in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Millennium: Just Prevention or even Therapy?		
16.10-16.40	LECTURE Epigenetic Effects of the Mediterranean Diet		
16.40	START THE POSTER EXHIBITION		
16.40-17.10	Coffee break		
17.10-18.20	SECOND SESSION Gouty Arthritis and dismetabolism	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	
18.20-18.50	LECTURE Metabolic effects of Glucocorticoids: is there a safe dosage?		

### FRIDAY April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

hrs	PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM	LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM	TRAMONTANA ROOM
08.30-09.40	THIRD SESSION Osteoarthritis and its management	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	PEDIATRIC SESSION Pediatric Rheumatology in the Mediterranean area
09.40-10.50	FOURTH SESSION Autoinflammatory and Rare Connective Tissue Diseases	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	
10.50-11.20	Coffee break		
11.20-11.50	SATELLITE LECTURE	SATELLITE LECTURE	SATELLITE LECTURE
11.50-12.50	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM	SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM
12.50-14.00	POSTER TOUR		
13.00-14.00	Lunch		
14.00-14.30	LECTURE Sun, vitamin D and rheumatic diseases		YOUNG PATIENTS AND RHEUMATOLOGISTS SESSION The impact of nutrition and lifestyle on RMDs
14.30-15.00	LECTURE Fostering physical activity together with correct nutrition: a successful approach but rarely respected in RMDs		
15.00-16.10	FIFTH SESSION From Raynaud's phenomenon up to systemic sclerosis	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	
16.10-16.40	LECTURE Balneotherapy and RMDs: when where and how to choose		
16.40-17.10	Coffee break		
17.10-18.30	SIXTH SESSION Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and related syndromes	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	PATIENT SESSION Open Questions to the Physician Nutritionist and to the Dietician



## SATURDAY April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

hrs	PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM	LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM	TRAMONTANA ROOM
08.30-09.40	SEVENTH SESSION <b>Spondyloarthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis</b>	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	SPECIAL ULTRASOUND SESSION <b>What about pitfalls and misinterpretations related to the nutritional status in Rheumatic Diseases?</b>
09.40-10.50	EIGHTH SESSION <b>Osteoporosis and Life style</b>	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	PATENT SESSION <b>The cold hand: from symptom to diagnosis</b>
10.50-11.20	<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.20-11.30	NINTH SESSION <b>Sjögren syndrome today</b>	related ORAL COMMUNICATIONS	PATENT SESSION <b>Balneotherapy explained</b>
12.30	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>		

## PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

We invite all Congress participants to attend the seven Lectures which will be held during Thursday 12 April and Friday 13 April, 2018.

Nine Scientific Sessions and related Oral communications will be held over the three days. Other interesting Sessions dedicated to Patients will take place between Friday and Saturday; a Pediatric Session on Friday, as well the SPECIAL Ultrasound Session will run in parallel to the other Scientific Sessions on Saturday. Satellite Lectures and Satellite Symposia will occupy the slots from 11.20 to 12.50 on Friday 13 April, 2018. Poster Exhibition and Tour are planned before afternoon Coffee break on Thursday 12 April and before lunch on Friday 13 April.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE for Scientific Sessions

We invite all Congress participants to attend the nine Scientific Sessions which will be held during Thursday 12, Friday 13 and Saturday 14 April, 2018 into the "Platea Maestrale" Room.

Each Session will focus on the priority themes\* listed below.  
In parallel with each Session will correspond the related Oral Communication Session.

- Epidemiology, nutritional aspects and environmental factors
- The early disease: clinical features and diagnostic tools
- Management: from guidelines up to the last treatment issues
- Management: non pharmacological aspects and unmet needs

\*The speeches which differ from the above mentioned titles and thematic are indicated in the following Program.



## THURSDAY April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

13.30-14.00

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### OPENING CEREMONY

Welcome from Local Academic,  
Hospital and Government Authorities

14.00-14.30

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

The diet in rheumatic autoimmune diseases:  
a recipe for therapy?

Speaker:

Y. Shoenfeld (Tel-Aviv, Israel)

Chair:

M. Cutolo (Genoa, Italy)

14.30-15.40

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### FIRST SESSION

Early Rheumatoid Arthritis

Speakers:

14.30 I. McInnes (Glasgow, UK)

14.45 G. Burmester (Berlin, Germany)

15.00 B. Combe (Montpellier, France)

15.15 Z. Szekanecz (Debrecen, Hungary)

Chairs:

G. Burmester (Berlin, Germany), C. Montecucco (Pavia, Italy)

14.30-15.40

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### FIRST SESSION

Early Rheumatoid Arthritis

Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

R. Caporali (Pavia, Italy)

15.40-16.10

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

Mediterranean Diet in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium:  
Just Prevention or even Therapy?

Speaker:

A. Trichopoulou (Athens, Greece)

Chair:

S.G. Sukkar (Genoa, Italy)

16.10-16.40

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

Epigenetic Effects of the Mediterranean Diet

Speaker:

A. Martinez (Pamplona, Spain)

Chair:

S.G. Sukkar (Genoa, Italy)

16.40-17.10

POSTER AREA

### START THE POSTER EXHIBITION

16.40-17.10

POSTER & EXHIBITION AREA

### Coffee break

17.10-18.20

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### SECOND SESSION

Gouty arthritis and dismetabolism

Speakers:

17.10 Nutritional aspects - including weight loss - for gout:  
an update from clinical epidemiology

S. M. Nielsen (Copenhagen, Denmark)

17.25 F. Sivera (Alicante, Spain)

17.40 P. Richette (Paris, France)

17.55 L. Punzi (Padua, Italy)

Chairs:

L. Punzi (Padua, Italy), P. Richette (Paris, France)

17.10-18.20

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### SECOND SESSION

Gouty arthritis and dismetabolism

Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

S. Grazio (Zagreb, Croatia)

18.20-18.50

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

Metabolic effects of Glucocorticoids:  
is there a safe dosage?

Speaker:

J.W.J. Bijlsma (Utrecht, The Netherlands)

Chair:

M. Cutolo (Genoa, Italy)



## FRIDAY April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

08.30-09.40

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### THIRD SESSION

#### Osteoarthritis and its management

Speakers:

- 08.30 C. Scire (Ferrara, Italy)
- 08.45 *The early disease: new aspects on the role of imaging*  
A. Iagnocco (Turin, Italy)
- 09.00 J.Y. Reginster (Liège, Belgium)
- 09.15 G. Herrero-Beaumont (Madrid, Spain)

Chairs:

M. Galeazzi (Siena, Italy), J.Y. Reginster (Liège, Belgium)

08.30-09.40

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### THIRD SESSION

#### Osteoarthritis and its management

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

G. Sebastiani (Rome, Italy)

08.30-09.40

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### Pediatric Rheumatology in the Mediterranean area

*Concomitant Session*

Speakers:

- 09.40 Multinational Study on epidemiology, treatment and outcome of children with idiopathic juvenile arthritis  
A. Ravelli (Genoa, Italy)
- 10.10 Longitudinal evaluation of growth and puberty development in pediatric rheumatic diseases  
N. Ruperto (Genoa, Italy)
- 10.40 Discussion

Chairs:

A. Martini (Genoa, Italy), A. Ravelli (Genoa, Italy)

09.40-10.50

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### FOURTH SESSION

#### Autoinflammatory and Rare Connective Tissue Diseases

Speakers:

- 09.40 *Autoinflammatory diseases: diagnostic criteria, guidelines and advances*  
M. Gattorno (Genoa, Italy)
- 09.55 *Focus on familial Mediterranean fever*  
H. Lachmann (London, UK)
- 10.10 *Beyond for the vasculitis risk in the Mediterranean*  
A. Gül (Istanbul, Turkey)
- 10.25 *Focus on Behçet disease*  
L. Cantarini (Siena, Italy)
- 10.40 *NEWS - Short report on a new European Project- ERN, on Rare Connective Tissue Diseases - ReCONNET*  
M. Mosca (Pisa, Italy)

Chairs:

M. Gattorno (Genoa, Italy), H. Lachmann (London, UK)

09.40-10.50

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### FOURTH SESSION

#### Autoinflammatory and Rare Connective Tissue Diseases

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

M. Inanc (Istanbul, Turkey)

10.50- 11.20

POSTER & EXHIBITION AREA

### Coffee break

11.20-11.50

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### Concomitants SATELLITE LECTURES

11.50-12.50

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### Concomitants SATELLITE SYMPOSIA

12.50-14.00

POSTER AREA

### POSTER TOUR

## FRIDAY April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

13.00-14.00

POSTER & EXHIBITION AREA **Lunch**

14.00-14.30

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

**Sun, vitamin D and rheumatic diseases**

Speaker:

M. Cutolo (Genoa, Italy)

Chair:

G. Minisola (Rome, Italy)

14.00-16.40

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### YOUNG PATIENTS AND RHEUMATOLOGISTS SESSION

**The impact of nutrition and lifestyle on RMDs**

*Concomitant Session*

Speakers:

14.00 People's perceptions on nutritional aspects and rheumatic disease: Completion of the "Truth or myth" questionnaire by the audience

14.10 Nutrition and rheumatic disease: are we really what we eat?  
E. Philippou (Nicosia, Cyprus - London, UK)

14.30 The sun and rheumatic disease: friend or foe?  
M. Cutolo (Genoa, Italy)

14.50 The impact of diet in rheumatic diseases  
C. Daïen (Montpellier, France)

15.10 Analysis and sharing of the results of the "Truth or myth" questionnaire at the end of the Session

15.20 "Your 5-a-daY" VIDEO for a healthy and "joint-friendly" exercise regime that can be undertaken as part of the daily routine  
L. Bacocoli - Personal trainer Virgin Active Village (Perugia, Italy)

15.30 WORKSHOP  
Problem based cases and discussion  
(Participants will be divided in groups)  
M. Kouloumas (Nicosia, Cyprus), D. Wiek (Hünxe, Germany)

Chairs:

A. Alunno (Perugia, Italy), M. Kouloumas (Nicosia, Cyprus),  
E. Nikiphorou (London, UK), D. Wiek (Hünxe, Germany)

14.30-15.00

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

**Fostering physical activity together with correct nutrition: a successful approach but rarely respected in RMDs**

Speaker:

G. Kitas (Manchester, UK)

Chair:

S. Bombardieri (Pisa, Italy)

15.00-16.10

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### FIFTH SESSION

**From Raynaud's phenomenon up to Systemic Sclerosis**

Speakers:

15.00 U. Muller-Lardner (Bad Nauheim, Germany)

15.15 M. Matucci Cerinic (Florence, Italy)

15.30 C. Denton (London, UK)

15.45 O. Distler (Zurich, Switzerland)

Chairs:

C. Denton (London, UK), V. Smith (Ghent, Belgium)

15.00-16.10

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### FIFTH SESSION

**From Raynaud's phenomenon up to Systemic Sclerosis**

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

A. Sulli (Genoa, Italy)

16.10-16.40

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### LECTURE

**Balneotherapy and RMDs: when, where and how to choose**

Speaker:

A. Fioravanti (Siena, Italy)

Chair:

T. Bender (Budapest, Hungary)

16.40-17.10

POSTER & EXHIBITION AREA

**Coffee break**



## FRIDAY April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

17.10-18.30

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### SIXTH SESSION

#### Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and related syndromes

Speakers:

- 17.10 G. Bertsias (Heraklion, Crete/Greece)  
17.25 *The early disease: clinical features and diagnostic investigations*  
D. Boumpas (Athens, Greece)  
17.40 A. Doria (Padua, Italy)  
18.00 *The antiphospholipid syndrome: news on management and unmet needs*  
A. Tincani (Brescia, Italy)

Chairs:

D. Boumpas (Athens, Greece), M. Mosca (Pisa, Italy)

17.10-18.30

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### SIXTH SESSION

#### Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and related syndromes

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

P. Miossec (Lyon, France)

17.10-18.30

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### PATIENT SESSION

#### Open Questions to the Physician Nutritionist and to the Dietician

SESSIONE DEDICATA AI PAZIENTI

Domande libere al Medico nutrizionista ed alla Dietologa

*Concomitant Session*

Chairs:

R. Gradaschi (Genoa, Italy), S.G. Sukkar (Genoa, Italy)

## SATURDAY April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

08.30-09.40

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### SEVENTH SESSION

#### Spondyloarthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis

Speakers:

- 08.30 R. Lories (Leuven, Belgium)  
08.45 N. Akkoc (Izmir, Turkey)  
09.00 R. Ramonda (Padua, Italy)  
09.15 F. Ciccia (Palermo, Italy)

Chairs:

S. D'Angelo (Potenza - Matera, Italy), R. Lories (Leuven, Belgium)

08.30-09.40

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### SEVENTH SESSION

#### Spondyloarthritis and Psoriatic Arthritis

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

R. Gerli (Perugia, Italy)

08.30-09.40

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### SPECIAL ULTRASOUND SESSION

#### What about pitfalls and misinterpretations related to the nutritional status in Rheumatic Diseases?

*Concomitant Session*

Speakers:

- 08.30 Ultrasound in Rheumatology: what, why, when do we assess musculoskeletal tissues and other organs?  
A. Iagnocco (Turin, Italy)  
08.50 Tips and tricks for pitfalls and misinterpretations related to the nutritional status in Rheumatic Diseases  
C. Martinoli (Genoa, Italy)  
09.20 Clinical cases: Ultrasound examinations in patients with nutritional status abnormalities  
C. Martinoli (Genoa, Italy), B. Ruaro (Genoa, Italy)

Chair:

A. Iagnocco (Turin, Italy)

## SATURDAY April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

09.40-10.50

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### EIGHTH SESSION

#### Osteoporosis and life style

Speakers:

09.40 L. Carmona (Madrid, Spain)

09.55 L. Sinigaglia (Milan, Italy)

10.10 M.L. Brandi (Florence, Italy)

10.25 J.A.P. Da Silva (Coimbra, Portugal)

Chairs:

M.L. Brandi (Florence, Italy), L. Carmona (Madrid, Spain)

09.40-10.50

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### EIGHTH SESSION

#### Osteoporosis and life style

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

R. Ionescu (Bucharest, Romania)

09.40-10.50

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### PATIENT SESSION

#### The cold hand: from symptom to diagnosis

SESSIONE DEDICATA AI PAZIENTI

La mano fredda: dal sintomo alla diagnosi

*Concomitant Session*

Speakers:

The cold hand: the symptom

F. Ingegnoli (Milan, Italy)

The cold hand: the diagnosis

V. Smith (Ghent, Belgium)

Chairs:

V. Smith (Ghent, Belgium), F. Ingegnoli (Milan, Italy)

10.50-11.20

POSTER & EXHIBITION AREA

### Coffee break

11.20-12.30

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### NINTH SESSION

#### Sjögren syndrome today

Speakers:

11.20 New nutritional aspects as possible risk factors: the role of salt  
G. Valesini (Rome, Italy)

11.35 A. Tzioufas (Athens, Greece)

11.50 X. Mariette (Paris, France)

12.10 L. Quartuccio (Udine, Italy)

Chairs:

X. Mariette (Paris, France), A. Tzioufas (Athens, Greece)

11.20-12.30

LEVANTE-PONENTE ROOM

### NINTH SESSION

#### Sjögren syndrome today

*Concomitant Session and related Oral Communications*

Chair - INTRODUCTION:

N. Damjanov (Belgrade, Serbia)

11.20-12.30

TRAMONTANA ROOM

### PATIENT SESSION

#### Balneotherapy explained

SESSIONE DEDICATA AI PAZIENTI

La balneoterapia spiegata: Come usarla?

*Concomitant Session*

Speakers:

T. Bender (Budapest, Hungary)

A. Fioravanti (Siena, Italy)

Chairs:

L. Di Matteo (Pescara, Italy), Z. Szekanecz (Debrecen, Hungary)

12.30-13.00

PLATEA MAESTRALE ROOM

### CLOSING REMARKS

\*Further variations to the Scientific Program should be expected before the Congress



## SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

**Abstract submission deadline: 15 December 2017**

**Abstract notification: 15 January 2018**

#### Submission

Abstracts should be submitted **no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017** by the online abstract submission.

Abstracts received by e-mail or by fax will not be considered: should you have any problems with the online submission please contact the Organizing Secretariat AIM Group International – AIM Italy ([info@mediterraneanrheuma.com](mailto:info@mediterraneanrheuma.com)).

**Free Registration for presenters of accepted Abstract of these categories:**  
Young Rheumatologists (under 40)  
and EMEUNET Members.

#### Important notice for Presenting Authors

Further to the Italian regulations for CME accreditation and for Continuing Medical Education-EACCME, please note that the abstract submission will be complete only when the following documents of the Presenting Author are provided:

- **CV** in European format of the Presenting author
  - **Disclosure form** (for Continuing Medical Education - ITALIAN CME) and the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form (for Continuing Medical Education -EACCME) of the Presenting author.
- In the closing phase of the online abstract submission area you will need to Upload both documents.

**DOWNLOAD AND FILL IN THE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ONLINE IN THE DEDICATED SECTION OF THE CONGRESS WEBSITE "SUBMIT THE ABSTRACT".**

#### Notification

Acknowledgement of receipt of the submission will be sent to the e-mail address stated under section "Personal details".

Notification on acceptance of the abstracts will be e-mailed by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

The registered author will receive all information concerning the abstract and is responsible for informing the other authors of the status of the abstract.

The presenting author of the accepted abstract must register and attend the Congress.

#### Instructions

Upon submission, indicate your preferred presentation form (oral or poster) and one of the following category that best describes the abstract:

- Autoinflammatory and Rare Connective Tissue Diseases
- Gout and arthritis in dismetabolic conditions
- Osteoarthritis: Thermal and pharmacological management
- Osteoporosis/Osteomalacia and malabsorption
- Psoriatic arthritis / spondyloarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Sjögren Syndrome and endocrine rheumatic disorders
- Systemic lupus erythematosus / Antiphospholipid syndrome
- Systemic Sclerosis and Raynaud phenomenon

#### Abstract Guideline

The complete abstract must not exceed 3.200 characters including spaces (approx. 350 words). Structured abstracts are mandatory.

The abstracts should state clearly:

- > Purpose
- > Methods
- > Results
- > Conclusions

Tables, charts or other graphics could be included as only one image in jpeg format.

It is the author's responsibility to submit a correct abstract; any errors in spelling, grammar or scientific fact will be reproduced as typed by the author, if accepted.

Please follow carefully the instructions reported in the online pages and fill in all the requested fields, in order to guarantee a correct and complete publication of the text.

Changes to abstracts can only be accepted until the deadline and can be added in the text using the User ID and Password received upon submission.





## SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### ORAL COMMUNICATION AND POSTER

The Scientific Committee will select the abstracts in order to allocate them in the sessions as oral presentation or as poster. Notification of acceptance or rejection will be sent to the corresponding author by **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018**.

The presenting author of the accepted abstract must register and attend the Congress.

#### Publication of Contributions

All the abstracts submitted and accepted will be published in an issue of the **Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology Journal** and will be available on USB sticks.

You will be able to collect it at the registration desk.

#### Important notice for Authors

**Information for authors submitting abstracts:** Further to the Italian regulations for CME accreditation, please be aware that the **Abstracts accepted as Oral communications** will appear on the Final Scientific Program exclusively with the name of the Presenting Author.

However, all the abstracts submitted in an issue of the Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology Journal (and available on USB sticks will be distributed on-site) will be fully published with the names of all the authors.

**With regard to the accepted Posters** they will fully appear with the names of all the Authors on both Final Scientific Program and the issue of the Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology Journal.

### CME Credits

#### UEMS - European Union of Medical Specialists

An application will be made to the EACCME® for CME accreditation of this event.

### ITALIAN CME - Continuing Medical Education

The Congress will be accredited by the National Commission for Continuing Education with the educational objective finalized to the development of individual professional skills and technical know-how for the following disciplinary areas:

#### •Medical Surgeon

*(Disciplines: Rheumatology, Allergology and Clinical Immunology, Anatomic Pathology, Anaesthesia and Reanimation, Clinical Biochemistry, Cardiology, Dermatology and Venereology, Endocrinology, Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology, Medical Genetics, Geriatrics, Food and Nutritional Hygiene, Respiratory Illnesses, Infectious Diseases, Metabolic Diseases and Diabetes, Sports Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, General Medicine, Internal Medicine, Legal Medicine, Thermal Medicine, Nephrology, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Clinical Pathology, Paediatrics, Dietetics) ;*

- Biologist;
- Dietician;
- Physiotherapist;
- General Nurses; Paediatric Nurses;

for nr. 700 participants.

Credits will be recognized only upon presence at 90% of the scientific sessions

**CME credits:** n. to be defined

**CME ID:** to be defined

### CME Provider

AIM Education - Provider n. 93  
Via G. Ripamonti, 129  
20141 Milan, Italy  
Tel. +39 02 56601.1  
Fax +39 02 70048585  
cme@aimgroup.eu  
www.aimeducation.it



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### CONGRESS VENUE

Built in 1926 and designed for storing goods, the "Magazzini del Cotone" building is Porto Antico's main structure. Renovated in 1992 by architect Renzo Piano, these spaces are confirmed as one of the most popular locations for conventions, conferences and all types of events. A mix of innovation and tradition.



Inside the Porto Antico (Old Harbour) is the "Magazzini del Cotone" Conference Centre at the sea level with ample spaces and all possible solutions for big international events.

An Auditorium of 1,480 seats, divisible into two mirror like rooms seating 740 each and a central stage designed as a theatre structure, adjustable to different heights perfect also for musical performances.

Thirteen modular rooms (2780 seats) and 8,500 square meters of exhibition space: charming rooms with views of the sea that adapt themselves to diverse fittings. The Conference Centre, fitted with the most advanced audio and video equipment, combines the charm of old architecture and modern and cutting-edge functionality.

### HOW TO REACH THE VENUE PORTO ANTICO - CONGRESS CENTRE "MAGAZZINI DEL COTONE"

Tel. +39 010 2485626

Fax +39 010 2758929

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



#### FROM AIRPORT

- Taxi: about Euro 15,00 (one way)
- Bus: 30 minutes with shuttle bus Volabus Euro 6,00 (stop Piazza De Ferrari).
- Than from Piazza De Ferrari: subway to St. Giorgio Stop and than 15-minute walk, direction Porto Antico.



#### FROM TRAIN STATION GENOA (Piazza Principe)

- 15-minute walk direction Porto Antico
- Bus: 10 minutes, line 1 or 9, from Marittima Principe F.S. to Piazza Caricamento Terminal
- Subway: 5 minutes direction Brignole, San Giorgio Stop



#### FROM HIGHWAY

Exit from Genoa Ovest and take speed city motorway direction; after 3 km exit at Genoa Porto Antico; at the end of the road continue 50 m. and turn right at 2<sup>nd</sup> intersection to access Porto Antico.





## GENERAL INFORMATION

### ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT



AIM Group International – Milan Office  
Via G. Ripamonti, 129 - 20141 Milan, Italy  
Tel. +39 02 566011 - Fax. +39 02 70048578  
info@mediterraneanrheuma.com  
[www.mediterraneanrheuma.com](http://www.mediterraneanrheuma.com)

### SECRETARIAT AND REGISTRATION DESK

The on-site registration desks will be open during the following days:

- Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 11.00-19.00
- Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 08.00-19.00
- Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 08.00-13.00

### ADMISSION

Participants are kindly requested to wear their badge during all congress activities. The badge will admit to the scientific sessions, exhibition area, coffee breaks and lunches.

### LANGUAGE

The official language is English.  
No simultaneous translation will be provided.

### ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

Attendance certificates will be delivered to all regularly registered participants at the end of the meeting.

### Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi access is provided throughout the "Magazzini del Cotone" Congress Centre.  
To connect to the service, search your wireless networks and select MCR 2018. Following the online procedure you will enjoy of FREE Wi-Fi access during the congress.

### VISA

All foreigners intending to enter Italy must provide the documentation required to justify the reasons and duration of their stay as well as, in some prescribed cases, the availability of adequate economic means and lodging.  
In some cases you need a visa, application for which can be made at the Italian Diplomatic and Consular Representations in your country of residence.

*Don't you have an EU passport or EU valid documentation? Do you need a Visa?*

If you have doubts visit **NOW** the website of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

[http://www.esteri.it/visti/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.esteri.it/visti/index_eng.asp)

Find out whether, depending on your citizenship, country of long-term residence, and the duration and reasons for your stay, you need a Visa to enter Italy.

Find out which documents are required in order to apply for your visa.

### ATTENTION

VISA application may even require 120 days!  
**Check it NOW**

VISA application fee is from  
€ 35,00 to € 116,00 per person to be paid  
at application, in local currency,  
to the Consulate or Embassy directly.

Presentation of the documentation requested does not necessarily ensure issuance of the VISA

AIM Group will be glad to assist you if you need any written invitation or other document to support your VISA Application. Feel free to contact us at [visa@aimgroup.eu](mailto:visa@aimgroup.eu)

### GUARANTEE LETTER for CHINESE Citizen

If you are a citizen of China

(RPC – 中華人民共和國 – 中华人民共和国)

in accordance to the agreements between the Authorities your are demanded to obtain a guarantee letter issued by AIM Group as Local Organizer of the Conference. Please contact us at [visa@aimgroup.eu](mailto:visa@aimgroup.eu) for more instructions.





## REGISTRATION

REGISTRATIONS FEES (All fees are 22% VAT included)	Within 15 Decembre 2017	Within 12 March 2018	From 12 March 2018 and on site
Delegate	€ 350,00	€ 470,00	€ 530,00
Students/Trainée*	€ 150,00	€ 180,00	€ 210,00
Healthcare Professional**	€ 150,00	€ 180,00	€ 210,00
Patients***	€ 50,00	€ 50,00	€ 50,00
Young Rheumatologists (under 40) and EMEUNET Members ****	Free Registration		

\* In order to benefit from the special fee, a submission of your status confirmation (approval letter signed by the Head of Department or copy of your status ID) must be sent to the organizing secretariat by e-mail or by fax.

\*\* Nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other nearby allied health professionals. A letter of confirmation of your status from the Head of Unit or Institute must accompany the formal registration form.

\*\*\* For Patient sessions on nutrition and healthcare

\*\*\*\* Free Registration only for presenters of accepted Abstract of these categories

### Registration fees include:

- Admission to the scientific sessions
- Congress bag with complete meeting materials
- Certificate of attendance
- Access to the exhibition and poster area
- Coffee breaks and lunches, as indicated in the program

### Name Changes

After March 12, 2018 sponsors who wish to make name changes will be charged of an handling fee of € 50,00 (VAT 22% included) per name change. A new registration form for each replacement participant will be required before the name change can be processed. Individuals may make name changes only in exceptional cases.

### Cancellation Policy

Notification of cancellation must be sent in writing to AIM Group International. Cancellations will be accepted **until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017** with a refund of all prepaid fees except for a 30% administration charge. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after this date.

## CONGRESS DELEGATE PACKAGES

PACKAGE (All fees are 22% VAT included)	Within 15 Decembre 2017	Within 12 March 2018	From 12 March 2018 and on site
PACKAGE A	€ 650,00	€ 750,00	€ 850,00
PACKAGE B	€ 550,00	€ 660,00	€ 720,00

**All packages include registration fee and city tax**

**For Hotel Reservation in Genoa, please note that AIM Group International has been appointed as Official Bureau of the XVII Mediterranean Congress**

### Package A includes:

- Admission to the scientific sessions
- Congress bag with complete meeting materials
- Certificate of attendance
- Access to the exhibition and poster area
- Coffee breaks and lunches, as indicated in the program
- Hotel accommodation **4 stars** for 2 nights taxes included (roulette formula)
  - Double Room: available just on request (the difference in price and city tax for the accompanying person are not included, to be paid directly at the hotel)
  - Extra night/s: available just on request - Price per room per night is € 155,00 (€ 2 City Tax per person and per day is not included, to be paid directly at the hotel)

### Package B includes:

- Admission to the scientific sessions
- Congress bag with complete meeting materials
- Certificate of attendance
- Access to the exhibition and poster area
- Coffee breaks and lunches, as indicated in the program
- Hotel accommodation **3 stars** for 2 nights taxes included (roulette formula)
  - Double Room: available just on request (the difference in price and city tax for the accompanying person are not included, to be paid directly at the hotel)
  - Extra night/s: available just on request - Price per room per night is € 130,00 (€ 1 City Tax per person and per day is not included, to be paid directly at the hotel)

**The Organizing Secretariat AIM Group International will be at disposal to suggest special package solutions for Students/Trainée, Healthcare Professional and Patients.**

For any further information please contact AIM Group International at:

Tel. 0039 02 566011

e-mail: [info.hotel@mediterraneanrheuma.com](mailto:info.hotel@mediterraneanrheuma.com)



## CONTACT

ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT



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## KEY DATE



### ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
**15 December 2017**

ABSTRACT NOTIFICATION  
**15 January 2018**

### REGISTRATION AND PACKAGES

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
**15 December 2017**

LATE REGISTRATION DEADLINE  
**12 March 2018**

ON SITE REGISTRATION  
**From 12 March 2018 and onsite**



Visit the Congress website  
**[www.mediterraneanrheuma.com](http://www.mediterraneanrheuma.com)**

and watch the video with the interview performed  
by the Congress Chairman

*Prof. Maurizio Cutolo*  
On behalf of the Board of the  
Mediterranean Congress of Rheumatology  
and of the Italian Society of Rheumatology