



L-Università
ta' Malta

10th MALTA MEDICAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Westin Dragonara Resort, St Julian's



Detailed Scientific Programme

<https://goo.gl/6FUBaC>



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Scientific Programme

Thursday 29th November

- 7:30 **Registration**
- 08:45 - 09:00 **Welcome**
Ray Galea
Chairman 10th Malta Medical School Conference
- H.E. Mary Louise Coleiro Preca
 President of the Republic of Malta
- 9:00 - 9:45 **Plenary I: Changing the future of hepato-biliary-pancreatic surgery through robotics**
Long Jiao
Chairpersons: Godfrey LaFerla, Charles Cini
- 9:45 - 10:15 **Coffee Break and Exhibitors**
- 10:15 - 11:30 **Parallel Session 1**
- Session 1A: Spinola Conference Room – Cardiology**
- Session 1B: St Julian Conference Room - Hepatology and Pancreatic Disorders**
- Session 1C: Carthaginian Conference Room - Dentistry**
- Session 1D: Castillian Conference Room - Gynaecology**
- Session 1E: Phoenician Conference Room - Psychiatry and Neurology**
- 11:30 - 12:45 **Parallel Session 2**
- Session 2A: St Julian Conference Room - General and Vascular Surgery**
- Session 2B: Castillian Conference Room - Paediatrics**
- Session 2C: Spinola Conference Room - Pharmaceutical Sciences**
- Session 2D: Phoenician Conference Room - Oncology**
- Session 2E: Carthaginian Conference Room - Family Medicine and Geriatrics**



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

14:00 – 14:45 **Plenary 2 Evidence Based Approach to Pleural Disease in 2018**
Najib Rahman

Chairpersons: *Stephen Montefort, Bridget Ellul*

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

15:15 - 16:30 **Parallel Session 3**

Session 3A: **Castillian Conference Room - Pleural Disease**

Session 3B: **St Julian Conference Room - Urology and Nephrology**

Session 3C: **Carthaginian Conference Room - Obstetrics and Foetal Medicine**

Session 3D: **Phoenician Conference Room - Paediatrics and Genetics**

Session 3E: **Spinola Conference Room - Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care**

16:30 - 18:30 **Discussed Poster Presentations**

Poster Session 1: **Phoenician Conference Room - Specialities including Dentistry**

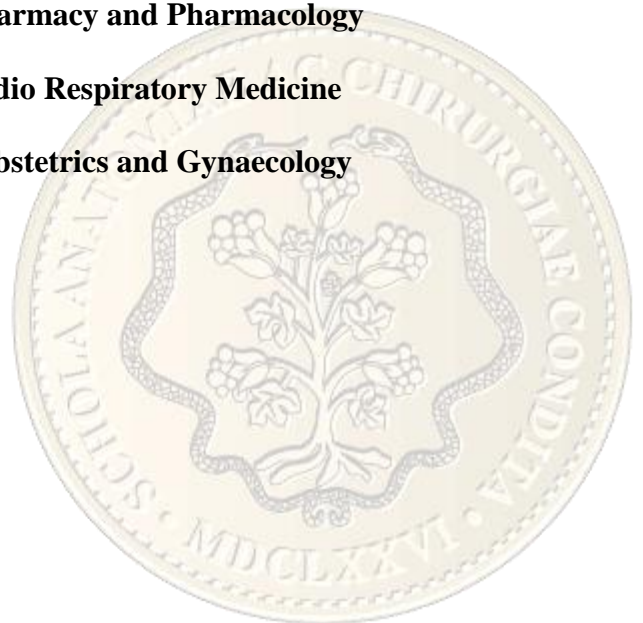
Poster Session 2: **Carthaginian Conference Room - Accident and Emergency and Plastic Surgery**

Poster Session 3: **St Julian Conference Room - Pharmacy and Pharmacology**

Poster Session 4: **Spinola Conference Room - Cardio Respiratory Medicine**

Poster Session 5: **Castillian Conference Room - Obstetrics and Gynaecology**

Non Discussed Posters: **P.001 – P.119**



Friday 30th November

9:00 - 9:45 **Plenary III: Preparing learners to inherit the Earth**
Valerie Wass

Chairpersons: Philip Sciortino, Josanne Vassallo

9:45 - 10:15 **Coffee Break and Exhibitors**

10:15 - 11:30 **Parallel Session 4**

Session 4A: St Julian Conference Room - Paediatrics and Neonatology

Session 4B: Castillian Conference Room - Orthopaedics and Musculoskeletal Conditions

Session 4C: Carthaginian Conference Room - Anaesthesia and Physiology

Session 4D: Phoenician Conference Room - Public Health and Infectious Diseases

Session 4E: Spinola Conference Room - Endocrinology

11:30 - 12:45 **Parallel Session 5**

Session 5A: Castillian Conference Room - Rheumatology and General Medicine

Session 5B: Carthaginian Conference Room - Gynaecological Oncology and Breast Disease

Session 5C: Phoenician Conference Room - Psychiatry and Family Medicine

Session 5D: Spinola Conference Room - Respiratory Medicine

Session 5E: St Julian Conference Room - Upper Gastrointestinal Tract Disease

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

14:00-14:45 **Plenary IV: Cannabinoids as recreational or therapeutic drugs**
Jorge Manzanares Robles

Chairpersons: Anthony Serracino Inglott, Charmaine Gauci

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



15:15 - 16:30 **Parallel Session 6**

Session 6A: St Julian Conference Room - Thoracic Surgery and Medicine

Session 6B: Carthaginian Conference Room - Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics

Session 6C: Spinola Conference Room - Colorectal Disease

Session 6D: Phoenician Conference Room - Medical Education

Session 6E: Castillian Conference Room - Obstetrics

16:30 - 18:30 **Poster Sessions 6-10**

Poster Session 6: Carthaginian Conference Room - Neuromuscular

Poster Session 7: Phoenician Conference Room - Paediatrics

Poster Session 8: Castillian Conference Room - Hematology and Oncology

Poster Session 9: Spinola Conference Room - Gastrointestinal Disease

Poster Session 10: St Julian Conference Room - Endocrine and Renal Disease

Non-Discussed Posters – P.120 – P.267



Saturday 1st December

9:00 - 9:45 **Plenary V: Optimising the treatment of metastatic prostate cancer**
Gerhardt Attard

Chairpersons: Alexander Gatt, Nicholas Refalo

9:45 - 10:15 **Coffee Break and Exhibitors**

10:15 - 11:30 **Parallel Session 7**

Session 7A: Spinola Conference Room - Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

Session 7B: Phoenician Conference Room - Haematology

Session 7C: Castillian Conference Room - Oncology Therapeutics

Session 7D: St Julian Conference Room - Pharmacy Practice

Session 7E: Carthaginian Conference Room - Translational Neurosciences

11:30 - 12:45 **Parallel Session 8**

Session 8A: Castillian Conference Room - Vascular Surgery

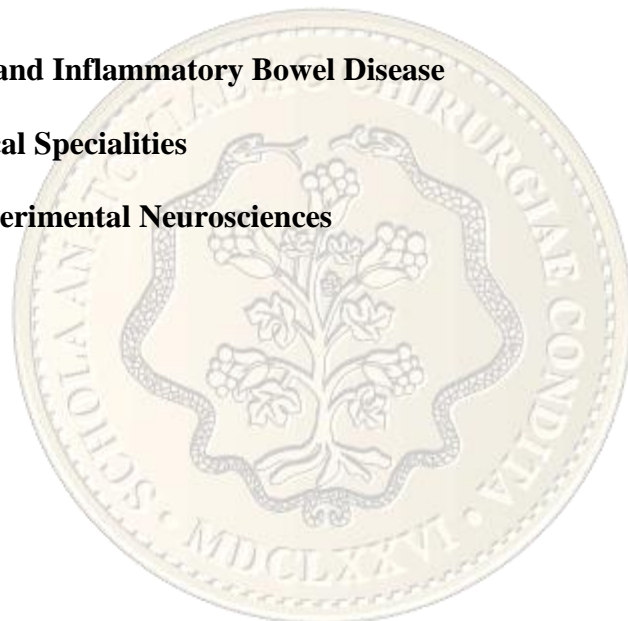
Session 8B: Spinola Conference Room - Diabetes

Session 8C: St Julian Conference Room - Midgut and Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Session 8D: Phoenician Conference Room - Surgical Specialities

Session 8E: Carthaginian Conference Room - Experimental Neurosciences

12:45 - 13:20 **Closing Ceremony**



Thursday 29th November

Parallel Session 1

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

Chairpersons: *Joseph Galea, Alexander Borg*

OP1.001 Prescribing proton pump inhibitors in patients with acute coronary syndrome on dual anti platelet therapy

Julia Tua, Julian Delicata, Maria Farrugia, Maryanne Caruana

OP1.002 The Maltese acute myocardial infarction (MAMI) study

Ritienne Attard, Philip Dingli, Doggen JM Carine, Karen Cassar, Rosienne Farrugia, Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger

OP1.003 Predictors of outcome at medium-term follow-up in subjects following myocardial Perfusion Scintigraphy

Sara Xuereb, Caroline J. Magri, Rachel Xuereb, Dillon Mintoff, Robert G. Xuereb, Stephen Fava, Joseph Galea

OP1.004 BEAT-IT Project: screening for causes of sudden cardiac death in Maltese Adolescents

Mark Abela, Maria Farrugia, John Bonello, Lisa Buttigieg, Estelle Abela, Adrian Callus, Jeremy Fleri Soler, William Camilleri, Sara Xuereb, Melanie Burg, Tiziana Felice, Mark Adrian Sammut, Robert George Xuereb

OP1.005 Physiological assessment of coronanry artery disease using instantaneous wave-free ratio and fractional flow reserve

William Camilleri, Elton Pllaha, Jeremy Fleri Soler, Matthew Mercieca Balbi, Elyse Balzan, Andrea Brincat, Diandra Vassallo, Tahira Waheed

OP1.006 Outcomes of Percutaneous Mitral Valve Repair at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta

Sara Xuereb, Rachel Xuereb, Elton Pllaha, Robert G Xuereb

OP1.007 An echocardiographic comparison of sutureless and conventional aortic valve replacement

Aaron R Casha, Liberato Camilleri, Alexander Manche, Kentaro Yamagata, Stephanie Santucci, Marilyn Casha Gauci, Joseph F Galea

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1B: Hepatology and Panceratic Disorders**

Chairpersons: *Long Jiao, Mario Vassallo*

OP1.008 Cytological analysis by endoscopic ultrasound-guided fine needle biopsy in sampling solid gastrointestinal lesions: a feasibility study

Maria Grazia Grech, Gerardine Saliba, Neville Azzopardi, Jurgen Gerada

OP1.009 Should patients with an intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasia of the pancreas be screened for an underlying extra-pancreatic malignancy?

Trevor Tabone, Kelvin Cortis, Neville Azzopardi

OP1.010 The role of endoscopic ultrasound in the management of pancreatic cancer: reviewing the local practise

Ruth Attard, Kurt Carabott, Clifford Caruana, Jo Etienne Abela, Neville Azzopardi, Jurgen Gerada

OP1.011 A single center analysis of pre-, intra- and post-operative thrombotic events in a cohort of 470 orthotopic whole liver transplantations

Nicoletta Riva, Alex Gatt, Rajiv Pruthi, William Nichols, James Findlay, Charles Rosen, Patrick Kamath, Aneel Ashrani

OP1.012 The incidence and treatment of post-operative pancreatic fistula after distal pancreatectomy

Sarah Xuereb, Neil Grech, Kurt Carabott, Jo-Etienne Abela

OP1.013 Liver-related hospitalisation rates, readmissions rates, length of stay, hospitalisation costs and in-hospital and peri-hospital mortality in patients with liver cirrhosis

Martina Papa, Jessica Sammut, Julian Cassar, Jurgen Gerada

OP1.014 Hepatitis B virus infection in the Maltese islands

Maria Angela Grima, James Gauci, Graziella Zahra, Karl Galea, Christopher Barbara, Pierre Ellul

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1C: Dentistry**

Chairpersons: *Farida Fortune, Gabriella Gatt*

OP1.015 Behçet's Disease:

Farida Fortune

OP1.016 Noise-induced hearing loss in dental surgeons; the Maltese perspective

Amanda Bartolo, Helen Grech

OP1.017 The oral health status of the Gozitan community

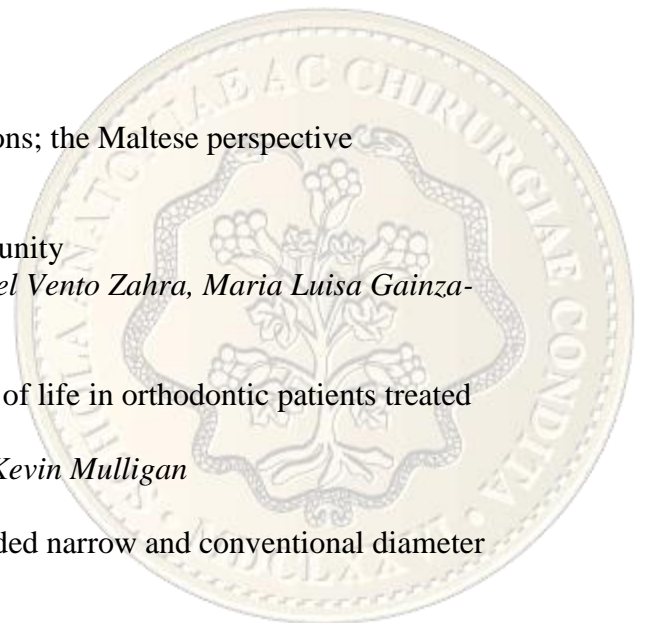
Anne-Marie Agius, Nikolai Attard, Gabriella Gatt, Ethel Vento Zahra, Maria Luisa Gainza-Cirauqui, Emad Eddin Alzoubi

OP1.018 An evaluation of oral health related quality of life in orthodontic patients treated with fixed & twin blocks appliances

Emad Eddin M Alzoabi, Acha Hariri, Nikolai Attard, Kevin Mulligan

OP1.019 On treatment outcomes of immediately loaded narrow and conventional diameter implant-supported overdentures in the edentulous jaw

David Paul Mifsud



10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1D: Gynaecology**
Chairpersons: *Mark Brincat, Yves Muscat Baron*

OP1.020 Determining the *in vitro* effect of the extract of *padina pavonica* on human osteoblast primary cell lines

Sarah Sultana Gixti, Mark P Brincat, Raymond P Galea, Jean Calleja-Agius, Pierre Schembri Wismayer, Nikolai Paul Pace, Charles Savona-Ventura

OP1.021 Uterine fibroid embolisation:

Nathania Bonanno, Kieran Chircop

OP1.022 Identifying genetic factors for osteoporosis in Malta:

Chanelle Cilia, Melissa Marie Formosa, Josanne Vassallo, Angela Xuereb-Anastasi

OP1.023 The role of interventional radiology in the treatment of chronic pelvic pain in women

Nathania Bonanno, Kieran Chircop

OP1.024 Are IVF pregnancies high risk pregnancies after 28 weeks?

Silvaine Marie Dalli, Olivia Anne Cassar, Eleanor Borg, Mark Brincat

OP1.025 Measurement of biomarkers for PE in pregnant women:

Maria Portelli, Viktor I Cassar, Yves Muscat-Baron, Byron Baron

OP1.026 Exploring maltese womens' attitudes on incontinence in pregnancy and the puerperium

Joanna Ghigo

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 1E: Psychiatry and Neurology**

Chairpersons: *Josanne Aquilina, David Mamo*

OP1.027 Demographic and clinical profile of multiple sclerosis in? Malta, including auditing documentation of the EDSS (expanded disability status scale): A report

Marija Cauchi, Janice Borg, Maria Farrugia, Valentina Fenech, Gillian Pace Moore

OP1.028 Establishing safe transfers between acute medical and psychiatric in-patient facilities

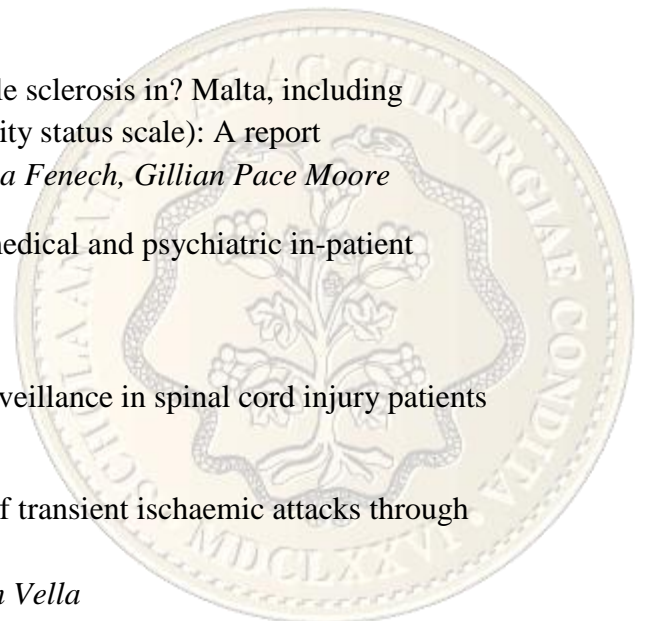
Jonathan Mamo

OP1.029 Audit 2018: renal tract ultrasonography surveillance in spinal cord injury patients

Peter Cassar, Andrei Agius Anastasi

OP1.030 An assessment of outpatient management of transient ischaemic attacks through the specialised neurovascular clinic in Malta

Russel Tilney, Valentina Fenech, Amy Lomax, Malcolm Vella



OP1.031 Bridging the Gap between Primary and Secondary Health Care for Cerebral Ischaemia

Matthew Zammit, Abigail Mula, Amy Lomax, Nicola Dingli

OP1.032 Incidence of brain tumours in the Maltese Islands: a population based study

Maria-Alessandra Zammit, Ruth Galea, Maria Antoinette Zammit, James Mark Debono, Mark Gruppetta, Maria Mallia

OP1.033 The Paceville project: adolescent exposure to drugs of abuse - transgenerational and long term effects on motivational and emotional state of rats

Erika Mifsud, Massimo Pierucci, Giuseppe Di Giovanni

Parallel Session 2

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2A: General and Vascular Surgery**

Chairpersons: *Gordon Caruana Dingli, Kevin Cassar*

OP2.034 Perioperative management of warfarin

Audrey Aquilina, Daniel Farrugia

OP2.035 Malignant disease after kidney transplantation in Malta: a 10-year analysis

Justine Camilleri, Jesmar Buttigieg, James Mark Debono, Emanuel Farrugia

OP2.036 A retrospective analysis of the complication and patency rates in first-time arteriovenous fistulas and grafts fashioned in Malta

Thomas Gatt, Adriana Grech, Kevin Cassar

OP2.037 Long-term outcomes after carotid endarterectomy

Ruth Scicluna, Denise Hili, Kevin Cassar

OP2.038 The impact of renal disease on survival rates after lower limb amputations in Malta

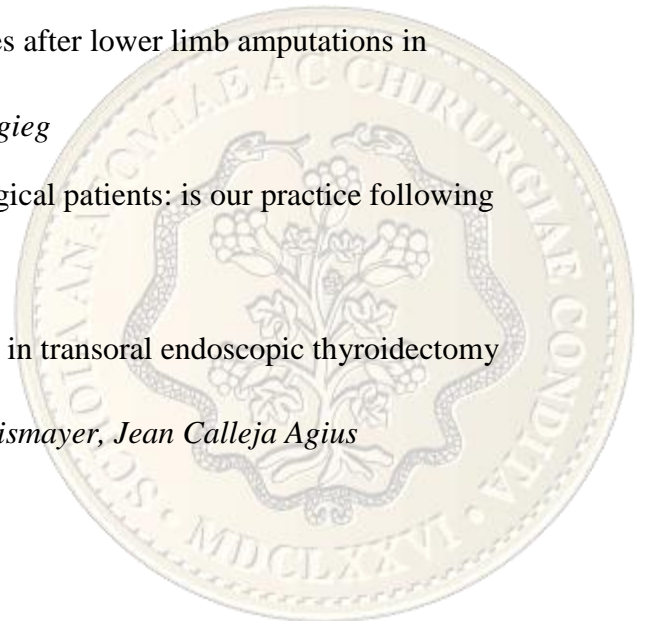
Marika Borg, Kevin Cassar, Karen Borg, Sandra Buttigieg

OP2.039 Prophylaxis of deep vein thrombosis in surgical patients: is our practice following the guidelines?

Matthew Scicluna, Nicholas Fava, Maria Mallia

OP2.040 Using thiel embalmed cadavers for training in transoral endoscopic thyroidectomy vestibular approach (TOETVA): Is it feasible?

Christian Camenzuli, Andee Agius, Pierre Schembri Wismayer, Jean Calleja Agius



11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2B: Paediatrics**
Chairpersons: *Victor Grech, Simon Attard Montalto*

OP2.041 Functional outcomes in Hirschsprung's disease: a retrospective analysis of the Maltese paediatric patients

Joseph Galea, Colin Mizzi, John Cauchi

OP2.042 Regional differences in childhood BMI data - the Malta childhood national body mass index study

Samuel Aquilina, Karl Spiteri, Maria Louisa Busuttil, Victoria Farrugia Sant'Angelo, Neville Calleja, Victor Grech

OP2.043 Paediatric minimal invasive surgery: current practice and future challenges

Jessica Schembri Higgans, Colin Mizzi, Mohamed Shoukry

OP2.044 Congenital syphilis in Malta

Melanie Grima, Luke Sultana, David Pace

OP2.045 Transitioning youth from paediatric to adult care: knowledge, practice and perceptions of paediatricians and adult physicians in Malta

Silvana Zammit

OP2.046 Are blood cultures in paediatric oncology patients with central venous lines being taken according to current guidelines?

Michelle - Marie Boffa, John Borg, David Pace

OP2.047 Henoch schonlein purpura in Maltese children - clinical characteristics and outcomes over an 8 year period

Ramon Bondin, Charles Joseph Borg, Valerie Said Conti

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2C: Pharmaceutical Sciences**
Chairpersons: *Sam Salek, Lilian Azzopardi*

OP2.048 Quality decision making in everyday life: can it improve outcomes?

Sam Salek

OP2.049 Gentamicin levels in low-birthweight infants

Paul Torpiano, David Pace

OP2.050 Prioritising patients for long-acting muscarinic antagonist therapy

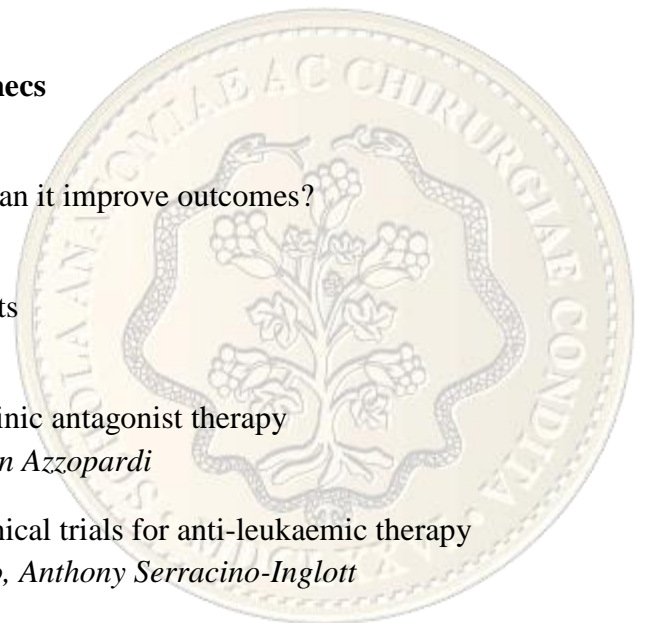
Jessica Spiteri, Louise Grech, Stephen Montefort, Lilian Azzopardi

OP2.051 Analysis of efficacy parameters used in clinical trials for anti-leukaemic therapy

Dylan Said, John Joseph Borg, Maresca Attard Pizzuto, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.052 Forensic pharmacy: drug testing

Michaela Cini, Gilbert Mercieca, Anthony Serracino-Inglott



11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2D: Oncology**
Chairpersons: *Christian Scerri, Janabel Said*

OP2.053 Malta's national cancer plan 2011-2015 - an implementation analysis
Alexander Clayman

OP2.054 Catheter related blood stream infections in haemato-oncology patients: a retrospective study
Daniel Farrugia, Sarah Ward, David James Camilleri

OP2.055 The immunohistochemical and molecular profiling of primary lung adenocarcinoma – a local perspective
Tiffany Buhagiar, Ian Said Huntingford

OP2.056 Effects of low-dose combinations of chromatin-modifying agents with retinoic acid on the terminal differentiation of leukaemia
Analisse Cassar, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.057 Screening and functional analysis of genetic alterations in the G-protein receptor 101 (GRP101) gene in local pituitary adenoma (PA) patients
Ryan Sultana, Robert Formosa, Josanne Vassallo

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 2E: Family Medicine and Geriatrics**
Chairpersons: *Glorianne Pullicino, Antoine Vella*

OP2.058 Full cycle audit: polypharmacy in the elderly at KGRH
Samuel Zahra, Diandra Mifsud, Nader El-Nahhal, Peter Ferry

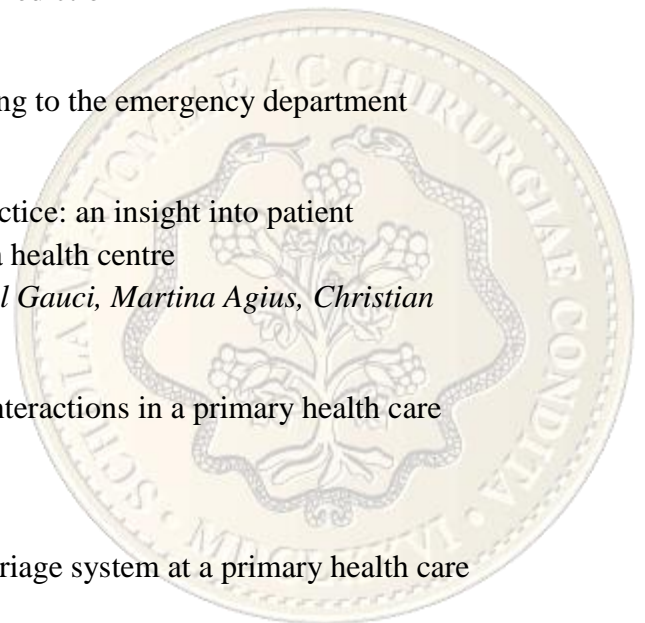
OP2.059 Study – frailty and rehabilitation outcome prediction
Doriella Galea, Claire Callus, Peter Ferry

OP2.060 Management of falls in the elderly presenting to the emergency department
Sarah Debattista, Daniel Debattista

OP2.061 Management of health problem in general practice: an insight into patient demographics and reasons for encounter at the Floriana health centre
Gabriel Borg, Monica Camilleri, Dylan Attard, Gabriel Gauci, Martina Agius, Christian Borg, Michaela Agius

OP2.062 Patient awareness on warfarin use and its interactions in a primary health care setting
Ramona Camilleri, Anton Bugeja

OP2.063 An evaluation of the tele-consultation and triage system at a primary health care centre
Martha Grima



OP2.064 Cardiac rehabilitation for heart failure patients – a service long overdue
Lisa Buttigieg, Mark Abela, Joanne Vella, Jeanine Micallef, Raissa Abela, Marilyn Gauci, Josette Desira, Sheldon Attard, Janet Caruana, Alice May Moore, Robert George Xuereb

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3A: Pleural Disease**
Chairpersons: *Najib Rahman, Peter Fsadni*

OP3.065 Retrospective analysis of whether prior talc pleurodesis attempt affects subsequent IPC-related autopleurodesis or not
Rachelle Asciale, Maged Fayed Hassan, David McCracken, Rachel Mary Mercer, Eihab Bedawi, Robert John Hallifax, Nikolaos Kanellakis, John Matthew Wrightson, Ioannis Psallidas, Nicky Russell, Najib M Rahman

OP3.066 The management of spontaneous and iatrogenic pneumothorax (PTX) at Mater Dei Hospital in 2017
Michael Pace-Bardon, Claire Vella, Julian Cassar, Malcolm Mintoff, Catriona Zammit, Sarah Galea, Daniela Tonna, Christopher Zammit, Stephen Montefort

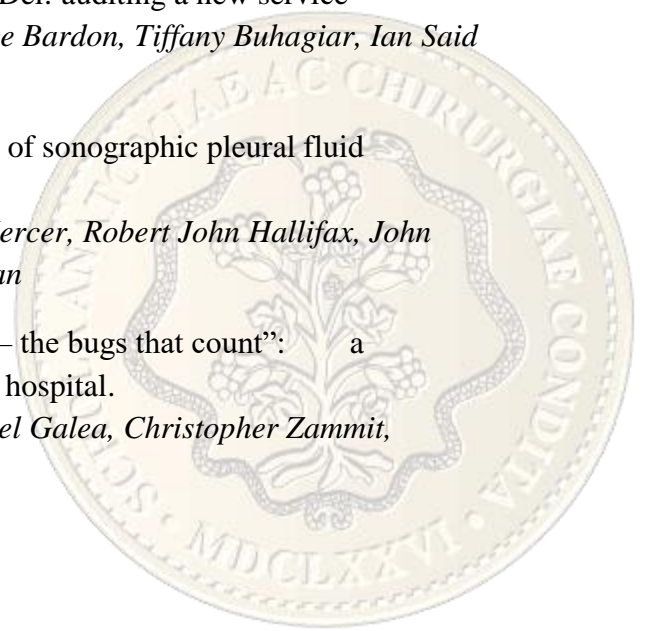
OP3.067 Is mesothelioma associated with increased risk of indwelling pleural catheter-related septated pleural effusion?
Rachelle Asciale, Rachel Mary Mercer, Maged Fayed Hassan, Robert John Hallifax, David McCracken, Eihab Bedawi, Nikolaos Kanellakis, Nicky Russell, John Matthew Wrightson, Ioannis Psallidas, Najib M Rahman

OP3.068 Success rate of talc pleurodesis
Yanika Farrugia, James Farrugia, Joanna Grech, Christopher Zammit

OP3.069 Ultrasound-guided pleural biopsy at Mater Dei: auditing a new service
Claire Vella, Sara Xuereb, Nicola Mallia, Michael Pace Bardon, Tiffany Buhagiar, Ian Said Huntingford, Christopher Zammit, Stephen Montefort

OP3.070 Prospective analysis of the predictive value of sonographic pleural fluid echogenicity for the diagnosis of exudative effusion
Rachelle Asciale, Maged Fayed Hasan, Rachel Mary Mercer, Robert John Hallifax, John Matthew Wrightson, Ioannis Psallidas, Najib M Rahman

OP3.071 “Microbiological data on pleural effusions – the bugs that count”: a retrospective review of local experience in a secondary hospital.
Kyra Bartolo, Manwel Fenech, Rodianne Abela, Gabriel Galea, Christopher Zammit, Stephen Montefort



15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3B: Urology and Nephrology**

Chairpersons: *Karl German, Emmanuel Farrugia*

OP3.072 Trends in prostate cancer incidence and age distribution – 2011-2016

Dominic Agius, Ester Jurecková, Maciej Kucharski

OP3.073 Emergency admissions following kidney transplantation: a local perspective

Roberta Callus, Lara Delicata, Julian Delicata, Emanuel Farrugia

OP3.074 The kidney transplant program in Malta: a 10 year report

Jesmar Buttigieg, Justine Camilleri, James M Debono, Emanuel Farrugia

OP3.075 Long-term survival outcomes in chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis in the Maltese islands

Ian Baldacchino, Sarah Debattista, Daniel Debattista, Gabriella Balzan, Emanuel Farrugia, Liberato Camilleri, Lisa Baldacchino, Sacha Buttigieg, Thelma Xerri, Whitney Sciberras Buhagiar, Gabriel Borg, Karl Cutajar

OP3.076 Trial without catheter - a 4-year retrospective audit

Kirk Attard, Giulia Maria Magro, Alethea JB Nair, Wei Li Chan, Nader El-Nahhal, Kenneth Falzon, Mai Khanh Kieu Xuan, Devang Patel, Choon Yee Wang, Kevin J Holmes

OP3.077 A comparison of outcomes following percutaneous ablation versus partial nephrectomy for renal tumours

Karl Spiteri, Kelvin Cortis, Simon Gatt, Gerald Busuttil

OP3.078 Audit of oncological and functional outcomes post radical prostatectomy for localised prostate cancer

Christine Mizzi, Keith Pace, Santosh Kumar Rajasekaran, Karl Spiteri, Gerald Busuttil

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3C: Obstetrics and Foetal Medicine**

Chairpersons: *John Huntriss, Mark Formosa*

OP3.079 Epigenetic regulation of early human development: molecular biology of preimplantation development

John Huntriss

OP3.080 Outcomes of women referred to the perinatal mental health clinic during pregnancy over a three-year period

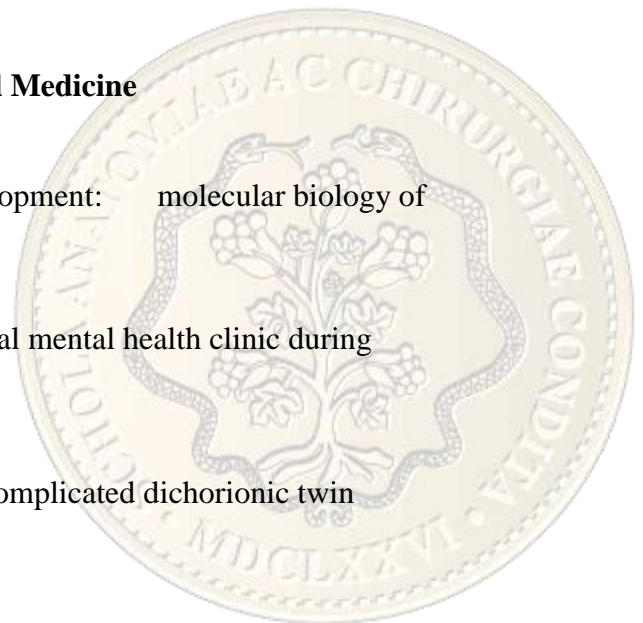
Ethel Felice

OP3.081 Optimal gestational age for delivery in uncomplicated dichorionic twin pregnancies: a population-based review

Mark R Brincat, Mark Sant, Neville Calleja

OP3.082 Preterm birth in the Maltese cohort

Silvaine Dalli, Andres Lopez Bernal



OP3.083 Obstetric and infant outcomes in mothers of Maltese and non-Maltese nationality – are there inequalities?

Miriam Gatt, Yves Muscat Baron, Neville Calleja

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3D: Paediatrics and Genetics**

Chairpersons: *Valerie Said Conti, Alex Felice*

OP3.084 Long-term survival of Maltese patients with repaired secundum atrial septal defects

John Bonello, Maria Farrugia, Sophie Degiorgio, Kyle Cilia, Maryanne Caruana

OP3.085 Neuromuscular junction defects in Models of motor neuron disease

Rebecca Cacciottolo, Remy Bordonne, Ruben Cauchi

OP3.086 Genetic testing for granular corneal dystrophy type1 in Malta uncovers the causative variant in the transforming growth factor beta induced gene

Gabriella Maria Guo Sciriha, Joseph Borg

OP3.087 Array-CGH analysis in patients with developmental delay, intellectual disability and congenital malformations

Mario Frank Farrugia, Edith Said

OP3.088 The Malta NGS Project: identifying local disease-causing variants using high throughput sequencing

Rosienne Farrugia, Francesca Borg Carbott, Ritiene Attard, Karen Cassar, Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger

OP3.089 Progress report on familial hypercholesterolaemia in Malta 2018: the current situation and what needs to be done to improve it

Myra Tilney

OP3.090 A novel mutation in the human PDHA1 gene as a cause for X-linked hereditary episodic ataxia

Mark Briffa, Graziella Zahra, Malcolm Vella, Thérèse Hunter, Gary Hunter, Joseph Borg

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 3E: Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care**

Chairpersons: *Agnes Portelli, Carmel Abela*

OP3.091 Bystander CPR and outcome from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Malta

Simon Attard Montalto, Christopher Giordimaina, Dorianne Zammit, Jonathan Joslin

OP3.092 Quality of chest compressions by the emergency department staff at Mater Dei Hospital

Pierre Agius, Mark Anthony Attard Biancardi, Giulia Maria Magro, Bernard Gatt, Anna Spiteri

OP3.093 Managing septic shock in the mater dei hospital emergency department (ed) – are we following international guidelines?

Sarah Vella, Sarah Micallef, Francesca Spiteri, Manuel Fenech, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP3.094 Analysis of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at Mater Dei Hospital: preliminary results

Christabel Mizzi, Michael Micallef, Tanya Esposito, Duncan Briffa

OP3.095 Assessing risk factors for carbapenem-resistant enterobacteriaceae colonisation and infection in critically ill patients

Kristina Bartolo, Lauren Abela, Deborah Maria Pace, Carmel Abela

OP3.096 A retrospective analysis of outcome after tracheostomy insertion in ITU at Mater Dei Hospital

Christabel Mizzi, Imed Ben Moussa, Stephen C Sciberras, Ryan William Grech, Kenneth Muscat, Kirsten Caruso

OP3.097 *Opuntia ficus-indica* a prickly situation during summer

Samuel Zahra, Matthew Sammut, Joseph Debono

16:30 - 18:30 **Discussed Poster Presentations**

Poster Session 1: Specialities including Dentistry

Chairpersons: *Nikolai Attard, Joseph Debono*

Poster Session 2: Accident and Emergency and Plastic Surgery

Chairpersons: *Agnès Portelli, Francis X. Darmanin*

Poster Session 3: Pharmacy and Pharmacology

Chairpersons: *Francesca Wirth, Maria Cordina*

Poster Session 4: Cardio Respiratory Medicine

Chairpersons: *Peter Fsadni, Andrew Cassar Maempel*

Poster Session 5: Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Chairpersons: *John Mamo, Carmen Portelli*

Non Discussed Posters: P.001 – P.119



Friday 30th November

Parallel Session 4

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 4A: Paediatrics and Neonatology**

Chairpersons: *Simon Attard Montalto, David Pace*

OP4.098 The effect of maternal opioids on guardianship and development of neonates in the first three years of life

Anna Maria Vella, Charles Savona Ventura, Liberato Camilleri, Kim Wolff

OP4.099 Neonatal acute kidney injury and follow-up for subsequent chronic kidney disease

Daniela Grima, Simon Attard Montalto, Raymond Parascandalo, Paul Soler, Valerie Said Conti

OP4.100 Clinical presentation of neonates admitted to intensive care for suspected sepsis

Janine Mifsud, Christine Grech, David Pace

OP4.101 Screening for developmental dysplasia of the hip in Malta

Anne Marie Bonello, Simon Attard Montalto, Andre S Gatt, Jessica Muscat, Massimo Abela, Thomas Azzopardi, Mark Grech

OP4.102 BCG vaccination in babies born to parents coming from high risk countries

Elena Saliba, David Pace

OP4.103 Blood culture sensitivity in neonates with suspected sepsis

Sophie Degiorgio, Daniela Tonna, John Xuereb, Ryan Farrugia, David Pace

OP4.104 Hospital acquired bacterial conjunctivitis in neonates needing intensive care.

Jessica Calleja, David Pace

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 4B: Orthopaedics and Musculoskeletal Conditions**

Chairpersons: *Ryan Giordmaina, Jean Calleja Agius*

OP4.105 An evaluation of the conservative management of fractures with plaster in primary care

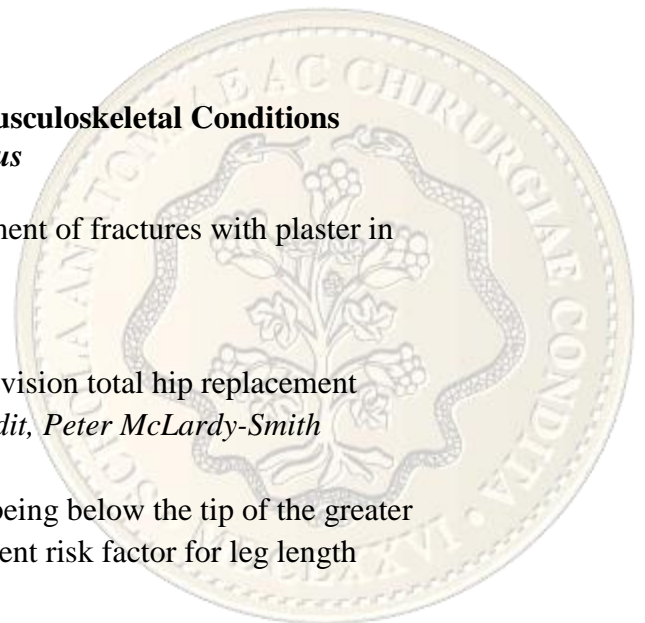
Martha Grima, Jurgen Abela

OP4.106 Acetabular liners with focal constraint in revision total hip replacement

Sharon Zammit, Marie-Caroline Nogaro, Hemant Pandit, Peter McLardy-Smith

OP4.107 The centre of rotation of the femoral head being below the tip of the greater trochanter on the Pre-Op AP radiograph is an independent risk factor for leg length discrepancy

Kurstein Nicholas Sant, James Duncan, Oliver Pearce



OP4.108 Adjacent joint arthritis progression and arthrodesis risk after first metatarsophalangeal joint arthrodesis, a 10 year follow-up study

Gianluca Gonzi, Wales Deanery, Karrhao Teoh

OP4.109 Negative Poisson's ratios in tendons: an unexpected mechanical response

Ruben Gatt, Michelle Vella Wood, Alfred Gatt, Francis Zarb, Cynthia Formosa, Keith M Azzopardi, Aaron R Casha, Tonio P Agius, Pierre Schembri Wismayer, Lucienne Attard, Nachiappan Chockalingam, Joseph N Grima

OP4.110 An evaluation of infection rates after spinal surgery in Malta – a 7-year audit

Kay Vanhear, Darren Micallef, Stephan Grech, John Borg

OP4.111 Guided growth using "eight-Plates" (Orthofix®) for knee coronal plane deformity correction

Simon Aquilina, Keith Sammut, Liberato Camilleri, Massimo Abela

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 4C: Anaesthesia and Physiology**

Chairpersons: *David Gatt, Gary Hunter*

OP4.112 L-glutamate delays aspirin-induced apoptosis of redox-compromised yeast cells by restoring the GSH/GSSG ratio and the mitochondrial respiratory rate

Maria Azzopardi, Gianluca Farrugia, Christian Saliba, Angelina S Gross, Neville Vassallo, Godfrey Grech, Joseph Borg, Frank Madeo, Tobias Eisenberg, Rena Balzan

OP4.113 Tracing Maltese genetic origins

Joanna Vella, Martin Bodner, Nicole Huber, Maria Geppert, Bettina Zimmermann, Joseph Borg, Alex Felice, Lutz Roewer, Walther Parson

OP4.114 Demographic data on chronic pain referrals in Mater Dei Hospital, Malta

muriel bellizzi, Marilyn Casha, Gabriel Gauci

OP4.115 The influence of anaesthesia and genetic factors on the outcomes following total knee arthroplasty

Stephen C Sciberras, Bernice Vella, Adrian Paul Vella, Jessica Antoinette Spiteri, Christabel Mizzi, Keith Borg Xuereb, Godfrey Laferla, Godfrey Grech

OP4.116 Investigation of renal colic using CT KUB: an audit on local practice

Eloise Caruana, Andrei ` Agius Anastasi

OP4.117 Audit on surgical admissions to Intensive Therapy Unit (ITU)

Anthony Dimech, Carmel Abela, Gordon Caruana Dingli

OP4.118 Intensive Therapy Unit discharge and follow-up audit, 2016

Stephanie Mifsud, Carl Tua, Greta Mattocks, Maria Deguara, Michael Buttigieg

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 4D:**
Chairpersons: *Charmaine Gauci, Claudia Fsadni*

OP4.119 The importance of oral health education in patients receiving orthodontic treatment in Malta

Valentina Tabone Borg

OP4.120 The Malta HIV cohort

Denise Borg, Tonio Piscopo

OP4.121 Establishment of a home antibiotic therapy service at mater dei hospital – a description of the service and its users

Manuel Fenech, Sonia Chetcuti, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.122 Primary health care reform in Malta: an analysis of the policy process

Naomi Cini Sarreo, Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Edward Warrington

OP4.123 Structured physical education – an answer to obesity crisis?

Amanda Fenech, Nachiappan Chockalingam, Cynthia Formosa, Alfred Gatt

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 4E: Endocrinology**

Chairpersons: *Sudesh Kumar, Sandro Vella*

OP4.124 Managing the obese diabetic patient

Sudhesh Kumar

OP4.125 An analysis of hypocalcaemia post total thyroidectomy: diagnosis and predictors

Sarah Craus, Lianne Camilleri, Miriam Giordano Imbroll, Matthew Cassar, Alexander Attard, Mark Gruppetta

OP4.126 Functional adrenal tumours in Malta

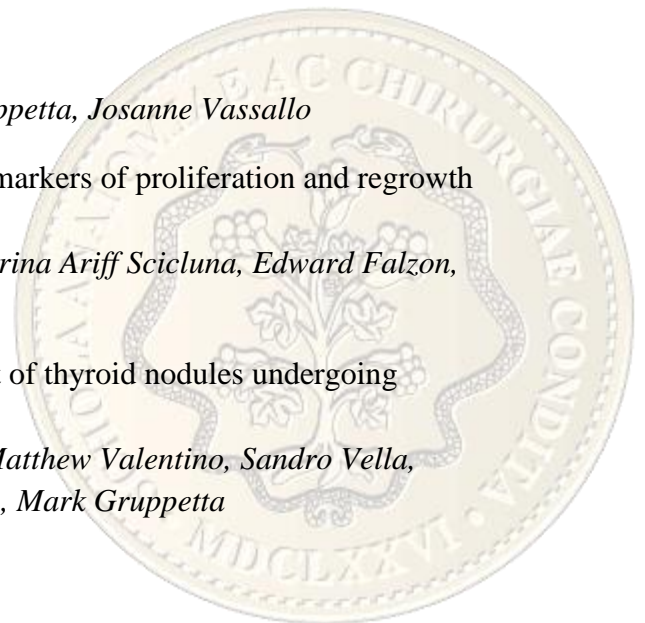
Miriam Giordano Imbroll, Maria Farrugia, Mark Gruppetta, Josanne Vassallo

OP4.127 Expression of cell cycle regulators and biomarkers of proliferation and regrowth in human pituitary adenomas

Mark Gruppetta, Robert Formosa, Sharon Falzon, Sabrina Ariff Scicluna, Edward Falzon, James DeGaetano, Josanne Vassallo

OP4.128 Ultrasonographic features and management of thyroid nodules undergoing ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration

Carol Cardona Attard, Alison Psaila, Lisa Buttigieg, Matthew Valentino, Sandro Vella, Mario Joseph Cachia, Josanne Vassallo, Stephen Fava, Mark Gruppetta



Parallel Session 5

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5A: Rheumatology and General Medicine**

Chairpersons: *Michela Frendo, Cynthia Jones*

OP5.129 In-patient falls at Mater Dei Hospital

James Clark, David Cassar, Melanie Grima, Denise Hili, Nicola Mallia

OP5.130 Vitamin D supplementation in systemic lupus erythematosus patients with vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency: the effect on disease activity, fatigue and interferon signature gene expression

Rosalie Magro, Christian Saliba, Liberato Camilleri, Christian Scerri, Andrew A Borg

OP5.131 Structural and biochemical analyses of human xanthine oxidoreductase

Brandon Charles Seychell, Arwen Pearson, Gary Hunter, Thérèse Hunter

OP5.132 Polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane poly(carbonate-urea) urethane (POSS-PCU) - its use in regenerative medicine.

Kurt Wismayer, Nazia Mehrban, James Bowen, Martin Birchall

OP5.133 Assessing patients' compliance to biologics and their beliefs towards rheumatic disease progression

Erika Cefai, Daniela Balzan, Cecilia Mercieca, Andrew Borg

OP5.134 Factors related to fatigue in systemic lupus erythematosus: a cross-sectional cohort study

Rosalie Magro, Liberato Camilleri, Andrew A Borg

OP5.135 Hypertension in Malta - A tackled disease?

Sarah Cuschieri, Josanne Vassallo, Julian Mamo

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5B: Gynaecological Oncology and Breast Disease**

Chairpersons: *James Degaetano, Christian Scerri*

OP5.136 Clinical outcomes of trastuzumab treatment in HER2-positive breast cancer patients

Jeanesse Scerri, Donika Metaraku, Godfrey Grech, Christian Scerri

OP5.137 Charting the endometrial cancer care pathway – a baseline audit

Jason Attard, Mark R Brincat, Charmaine Tanti, Nicole Buhagiar, Marie Claire Farrugia, Jean Claude Farrugia, Stefan Laspina, Yves Muscat Baron, Rachel Micallef, Danika Marmarà

OP5.138 Ovarian survival rates in Malta between 2008-2016

Viktor Ivan Cassar, Marie Claire Farrugia, Alison Micallef Fava, Yves Muscat Baron

OP5.139 A ten-year review of vulval malignancies in the Maltese islands

Mark R. Brincat, Charmaine Tanti, Alberto Vella

OP5.140 Adding tumour size to the risk malignancy index improves its area under the curve performance

Marlon Harmsworth, John Thake, Mark Cordina

OP5.141 Prevalence and type distribution of Human papilloma (HPV) in Maltese women: an updated estimate

Graziella Zahra, Christopher Barbara, Rebecca Borg, Mark Briffa, Owen Zammit, Julia-Anne Camilleri

OP5.142 Breast cancer audit: a histopathological perspective

Shawn Baldacchino, Karl Dalli, Sharon Falzon, Godfrey Grech, James DeGaetano

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5C: Psychiatry and Family Medicine**

Chairpersons: *David Cassar, Philip Sciortino*

OP5.143 Cognitive impairment on the elderly presenting to the Emergency Department

Sarah Debattista, Daniel Debattista

OP5.144 A qualitative study assessing parents' perspective on young people with autism spectrum disorder in relation to the benefits of sport; comparing individual to group sport

Daniel Vella Fondacaro, Nigel Camilleri

OP5.145 Depression in type 2 diabetes patients in Maltese primary care

Tania Cardona, Glorianne Pullicino

OP5.146 Evidence that the urban environment moderates the level of familial clustering of positive psychotic symptoms

Anton Grech

OP5.147 The prevalence of problematic internet use in Malta among young persons aged 13 – 16 years

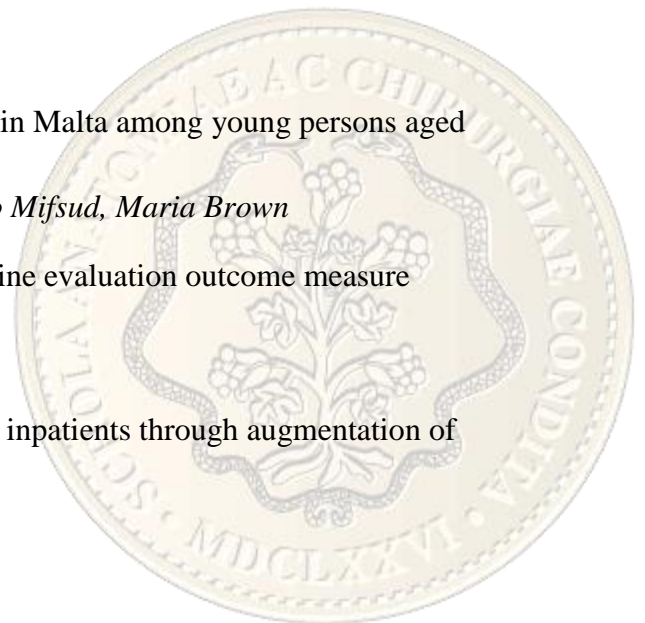
Anna Maria Vella, Marilyn Clark, Janet Mifsud, Mario Mifsud, Maria Brown

OP5.148 Translation of the clinical outcomes in routine evaluation outcome measure (CORE-OM) into Maltese

Marija Farrugia, Chris Evans, Ivan Zammit

OP5.149 Improving health monitoring of psychiatric inpatients through augmentation of physical health check for– an audit cycle

Thalia Massa, Tim Hardie



11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5D: Respiratory Medicine**
Chairpersons: *Simon Maxwell, Roger Ellul-Micallef*

OP5.150 Preparing to prescribe medicines: Delivering better training to the next generation of doctors
Simon Maxwell

OP5.151 The contemporary adult Maltese smoker phenotype
Sarah Cuschieri, Josanne Vassallo, Neville Calleja, Julian Mamo

OP5.152 Plethysmography and its relationship with biochemical parameters among the Maltese population
Theresia Dalli, Sara Xuereb, Peter Fsadni

OP5.153 Beta-Blocker induced asthma in Malta
Jonathan Gauci, Yanika Farrugia, Stephanie Vella, Valentina Fenech, Bernice Sophie Spiteri, Josef Micallef

OP5.154 Environmental factors effecting the incidence of spontaneous pneumothorax
Joseph Galea, Kimberley Grech, Tiziana Parnis, Liberato Camilleri

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 5E: Upper Gastrointestinal Tract Disease**
Chairpersons: *John Schembri, Josephine Psaila*

OP5.155 The outcome of a group of patients post-bariatric surgery in Malta
Gianluca Fava, Sarah Borg Grech, Benedict Axisa

OP5.156 Surgery for upper gastrointestinal cancer: an individual surgeon's outcomes
Anthony Dimech, Jessica Busuttil, Benedict Axisa

OP5.157 Endoscopic ultrasound: a new diagnostic and therapeutic tool at Mater Dei Hospital
Neville Azzopardi, Jurgen Gerada

OP5.158 A study of antibiotic resistance patterns in helicobacter pylori strains isolated from gastric biopsies at Mater Dei Hospital Malta
Juanita Ann Spiteri, Graziella Zahra, John Schembri, Anthea Pisani, Elaine Borg, Neville Spiteri, Eliezer Zahra Bianco, Paul Caruana, Christopher Barbara, Pierre Ellul

OP5.159 Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for minimally invasive management of gastric and rectal neuroendocrine tumours (NETs): an international collaboration
Edward John Despott, Alberto Murino, Andrea Telese, Nikolaos Koukias, Nikolaos Lazaridis, Erasmia Vlachou, Christos Toumpanakis, Dalvinder Mandair, Martyn Caplin, Yoshikazu Hayashi

OP5.160 Practice patterns for the management of concomitant gallstones and choledocholithiasis

Ylenia Abdilla

OP5.161 Diagnostic yield of Endoscopic Ultrasound-guided fine needle biopsy in solid gastrointestinal lesions

Jurgen Gerada, Gerardine Saliba, Neville Azzopardi

Parallel Session 6

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6A: Thoracic Surgery and Medicine**

Chairpersons: *Alexander Manche, Martin Balzan*

OP6.162 The influence of roflumilast combinatory treatment on molecular targets related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Francesca Camilleri, Anthony Fenech, Vanessa Petroni Magri

OP6.163 Re-auditing concordance to guideline recommendations in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at Mater Dei Hospital

Jonathan Gauci, Emma Louise Schembri, Neil Grech, David Bilocca, Peter Fsadni, Stephen Montefort

OP6.164 Completing the audit. Have oxygen prescription patterns improved with the introduction of the oxygen prescription chart?

Kyra Bartolo, Michael Micallef, Maria Andria Barbara, Emma Camilleri, Elyse Balzan, Peter Fsadni

OP6.165 Endobronchial ultrasound transbronchial needle aspiration (EBUS-TBNA) – a new diagnostic service at Mater Dei Hospital

Michael Pace-Bardon, David Bilocca, Christopher Zammit, Gerardine Saliba, Sharon Psaila-Balzan, Ian Said-Huntingford, Stephen Montefort

OP6.166 Safety and diagnostic accuracy of CT-guided lung biopsies in Malta

Gabriel Galea, Iyad Mohamad Almobaied, Nathan Edwards, Adrian Mizzi

OP6.167 Development and testing of the RiBridge artificial rib

Aaron R Casha, Philip Farrugia, Quinton Calleja, Daniel Micallef

OP6.168 Lung cancer resection in 2015 and 2016 at Mater Dei Hospital

Maria Angela Grima, Jeremy Fleri Soler, Caroline Gouder, Darlene Muscat, Ian Said Huntingford, Gabriel Galea, Aaron Casha, Stephen Montefort, David Bilocca



15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6B: Emergency Medicine and Paediatrics**

Chairpersons: *Michael Spiteri, Paul Soler*

OP6.169 Assessment of Head Injury (HI) Management in the Paediatric Population at Mater Dei Hospital

Sarah Ellul, Mayokun Taiwo, Stefan Zammit, Colin Mizzi, John Cauchi, Muhammed Choudhry

OP6.170 Time to fluid administration in paediatric diabetic ketoacidosis

Ruth Farrugia, Maria Micallef, Francesca Grech, John Vella

OP6.171 An audit of first afebrile seizure management in Maltese children reviewed in Mater Dei Hospital after professional development was given to paediatric department staff

Amaris Spiteri, Charles Joseph Borg, Stephen Attard, Doriette Soler

OP6.172 Inhalant allergens in Maltese children with allergic rhinitis

Jessica Pace, Jonathan Sammut, Patrick Sammut, Stephen Montefort

OP6.173 Implications of a mixed methods study on the behaviours and perceptions of paediatricians in Malta towards child protection work

Kevin Borg, Mariella Mangion, Tania Borg, Jane Barlow

OP6.174 Underlying diagnoses in neonates admitted to intensive care with tachypnoea

Christine Grech, Janine Mifsud, David Pace

OP6.175 A study of the public knowledge on the management of jellyfish stings

Gerd Xuereb, Kurt Apap, Malcolm Falzon

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6C: Colorectal Disease**

Chairpersons: *Thomas Cecil, Joseph Debono*

OP6.176 Cytoreductive surgery and multivisceral small bowel transplantation. A technically feasible option for patients with end-stage pseudomyxoma peritonei

Thomas Cecil

OP6.177 Molecular approach to familial breast and colon cancer

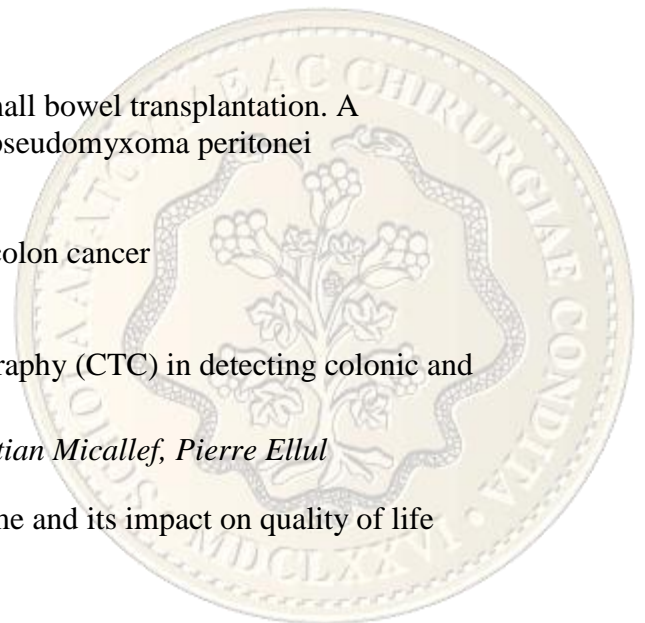
Jessica Debattista, Jeanesse Scerri, Christian Scerri

OP6.178 The role of computed tomography colonography (CTC) in detecting colonic and extra-colonic pathologies

Catriona Scicluna, Sara Busuttil, Naomi Piscopo, Kristian Micallef, Pierre Ellul

OP6.179 Incidence of low anterior resection syndrome and its impact on quality of life

Svetlana Doris Brincat, Charles Cini



OP6.180 Heat shock protein expression in patients with rectal carcinoma: is it a good predictive biomarker for response to neo-adjuvant therapy?

Neville Spiteri, Jeffrey Dalli, Sharon Cassar, Jason Attard, Joseph Debono

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

Chairpersons: *Valerie Wass, Josanne Vassallo*

OP6.181 Compliance to Driving Regulations amongst Epileptic Patients in Malta

Neil Grech, Jessica Sammut, Charmaine Chircop, Norbert Vella

OP6.182 Antimicrobial Resistance in the Medical Curriculum - A European-wide Study

Gerd Xuereb, Kurt Apap

OP6.183 Developing a Trustworthy Quality Improvement Framework within a Community-Based NHS Trust

Jonathan Mamo

OP6.184 CPR training in Malta: the role of the malta resuscitation council

Simon Attard-Montalto, Mark Attard Biancardi, Marthese Bartolo, Anne Marie Camilleri Podesta, Marius Caruana, Tanya Esposito, Ryan Farrugia, Mark Gauci, Christopher Giordimaina, Daniel Varnai, Mario Zerafa

OP6.185 Together we learn: a 3 year study of near peer clinical teaching and learning

Alexander Treadgold, Halima Iqbal, Rebecca Stoner, Isabel Stabile

OP6.186 A study on the attitudes of Foundation doctors towards general practice and their experience during the three-month rotation at health centres

Marilyn Baldacchino, Jurgen Chris Abela

OP6.187 Setting up a liver retrieval service in Malta

Noel Cassar, Hector Vilca-Melendez, Nigel Heaton

15:15 - 16:30 **Session 6E: Obstetrics**

Chairpersons: *Raymond Galea, Albert Scerri*

OP6.188 Male urology infertility clinic – an adjunct to assisted reproductive technology. Adapting to a rapidly changing cultural, familial, legal and social national scenario

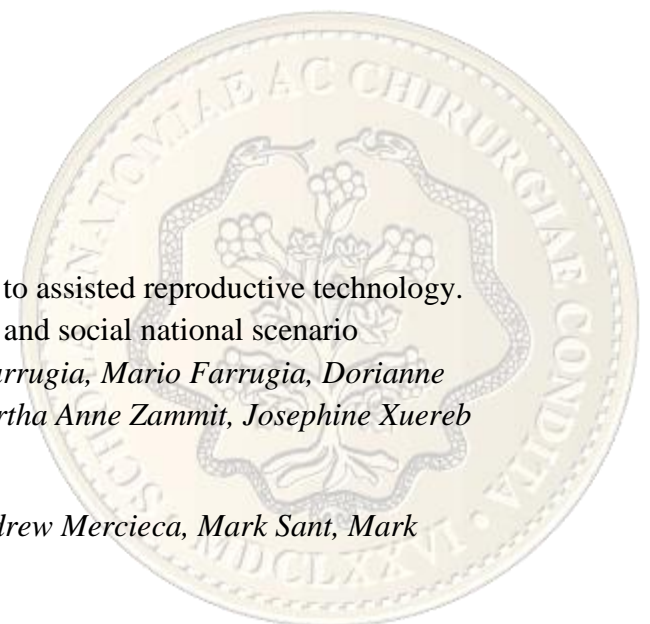
Andrew John Mercieca, Olivia Anne Cassar, David Farrugia, Mario Farrugia, Dorianne Coleiro, Mark Debrincat, Gregory Apap Bologna, Martha Anne Zammit, Josephine Xuereb

OP6.189 ART clinic - the Maltese experience

Eleanor Borg, Olivia-Anne Cassar, Silvaine Dalli, Andrew Mercieca, Mark Sant, Mark Brincat

OP6.190 Pregnant Maltese women on opioids

Anna Maria Vella, Charles Savona Ventura, Liberato Camilleri, Kim Wolff



OP6.191 Thyroid dysfunction in pregnancy - an observational analysis of a Maltese cohort
Katia Vella, Sandro Vella, Charles Savona Ventura, Josanne Vassallo

OP6.192 Induction of labour in Mater Dei Hospital, Malta
Martina Francesca Papa, Mandy Collicot, Yves Muscat Baron

OP6.193 Gestational dysglycaemia & future cardiometabolic risk at medium-term follow-up
Rachel Xuereb, Caroline J. Magri, Sara Xuereb, Robert G. Xuereb, Joseph Galea, Stephen Fava

OP6.194 The workload in obstetric anaesthesia at Mater Dei Hospital - a clinical governance exercise
Petramay Attard Cortis, Glenn Paul Abela

16:30 - 18:30 **Discussed Poster Presentation**

Poster Session 6: Neuromuscular
Chairpersons: *Giuseppe Di Giovanni, Maria Mallia*

Poster Session 7: Paediatrics
Chairpersons: *Victor Calvagna, Patrick Sammut*

Poster Session 8: Hematology and Oncology
Chairpersons: *David James Camilleri, Godfrey Grech*

Poster Session 9: Gastrointestinal Disease
Chairpersons: *Neville Azzopardi, James Gauci*

Poster Session 10: Endocrine and Renal Disease
Chairpersons: *Roberta Callus, David Coppini*

Non-Discussed Posters – P.120 – P.267



Saturday 1st December

Parallel Session 7

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 7A: Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery**

Chairpersons: *Philip Dingli, Walter Busuttil*

OP7.195 Effect of sternal wire twisting on sternotomy closure rigidity

Aaron R Casha, Liberato Camilleri, Alexander Manche, Marilyn Casha Gauci, Andee Agius, Lang Yang

OP7.196 Can age adjusted D-dimer be used to decrease the CTPA burden in a general hospital?

Kyra Bartolo, Christine Jo Cannataci, Joelle Azzopardi, Julian Cassar, Christopher Zammit, Paula Grech, Gabriel Borg, Gabriel Degiorgio, Brendan Caruana Montaldo

OP7.197 Sleep deprivation & cardiovascular disease in Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Caroline J. Magri, Sara Xuereb, Rachel Xuereb, Robert G. Xuereb, Stephen Fava, Joseph Galea

OP7.198 Outcomes of percutaneous left atrial appendage Occlusion at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta

Sara Xuereb, Rachel Xuereb, Elton Pllaha, Robert G Xuereb

OP7.199 A long-term comparative survival study after aortic valve replacement: Mitroflow versus other bioprostheses

Alexander Manché

OP7.200 A retrospective analysis of ICD therapies in Malta

Lisa Lauren Buttigieg, Samuel Bonnici, Samuel Meilak, Melanie Burg, Oscar Aquilina, Mark Sammut

OP7.201 Assessment of intravascular ultrasound and angiography co-registration's influence on percutaneous intervention strategy

Philip Francis Dingli, William Camilleri

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 7B: Haematology**

Chairpersons: *Stefan Laspina, Alexander Gatt*

OP7.202 Venous thromboembolism in multiple myeloma

Sarah Borg Savona, Melanie Debono, Alexander Gatt, David James Camilleri, Mark Grech

OP7.203 An audit regarding appropriateness of platelet transfusions in Mater Dei Hospital
Denise Borg Aquilina, Stefan Laspina, Dorianne Attard, Nicola Bonello, Adriano Buontempo, Jessica Busuttil, Alicia Dimech, Maria Grazia Grech, Melise Mifsud, Adrienne Zerafa Simler

OP7.204 Tyrosol as a leukaemia differentiation inducing agent

Lucienne Vassallo Gatt, David Saliba, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer, Marion Zammit-Mangion

OP7.205 Validation of age-adjusted d-dimer values

Mark Grech, Melanie Debono, Sarah Borg Savona, Kevin Vella, David James Camilleri, Alexander Gatt

OP7.206 Core lymph node biopsies and the implications on tissue diagnosis

Tiffany Buhagiar, David Pisani, Alexandra Betts

OP7.207 Point-of-care haemoglobin measurement

Martina Scicluna, Lilian M Azzopardi, Francesca Wirth

OP7.208 Differential expression of KLF1 in family studies and their role in globin gene switching

Laura Grech, Jeremy Cutajar, Mary Rose Caruana, Chris Scerri, Ruth Galdies, Robert Formosa, Joseph Borg, Alex Felice

OP7.209 Surviving with cancer and thromboembolism

Abigail Attard, Joanna Grech, Clarissa-Marie Zehlicke, Rachel A Micallef, Alexander Gatt

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 7C: Oncology Therapeutics**

Chairpersons: *Gerhardt Attard, Nicholas Refalo*

OP7.210 The use of neoadjuvant chemoradiotherapy in rectal cancer - a local experience

Maria Angela Grima, Malcolm Buhagiar, Abigail Attard, Claude Magri

OP7.211 Improved therapy for non-small cell lung cancer

Vanessa Petroni Magri, Joseph Galea, Palma Rocchi, Anthony G Fenech

OP7.212 Outcomes in elderly patients with diffuse Large B-Cell lymphoma treated with R-CEOP

Mark Grech, Krystle-Blair Theuma, Jessica Gauci, Alexander Gatt, David-James Camilleri

OP7.213 Bioactivity of natural products – credible science or fiction?

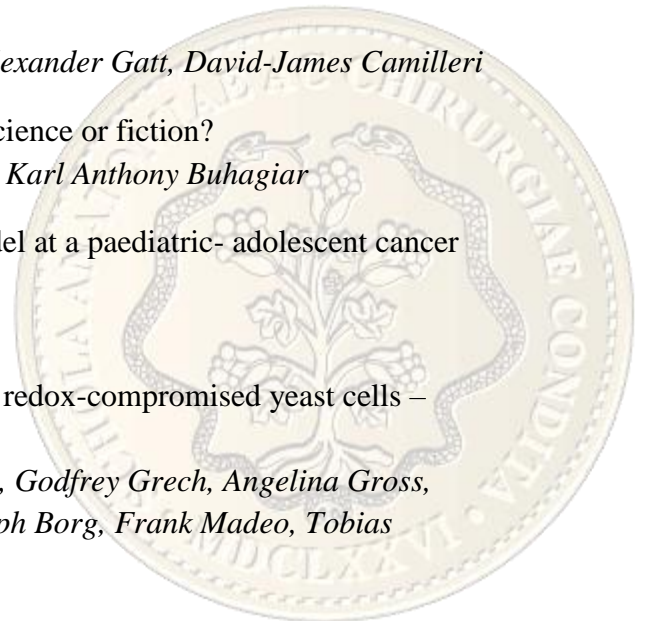
Joseph A Buhagiar, Marie-Therese Camilleri-Podesta, Karl Anthony Buhagiar

OP7.214 Development of a pharmaceutical care model at a paediatric- adolescent cancer ward

Sephorah Falzon, Louise Grech, Lilian Azzopardi

OP7.215 Aspirin disrupts acetyl-CoA metabolism in redox-compromised yeast cells – implications for its role in cancer chemoprevention

Gianluca Farrugia, Maria Azzopardi, Christian Saliba, Godfrey Grech, Angelina Gross, Jelena Pistolic, Vladimir Benes, Neville Vassallo, Joseph Borg, Frank Madeo, Tobias Eisenberg, Rena Balzan



OP7.216 Inhibition of Wnt-suppressing genes regulates non-Canonical Wnt signalling in Pituitary Adenomas (PA)

Robert Formosa, Joseph Borg, Josanne Vassallo

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 7D: Pharmacy Practice**

Chairpersons: *Louise Grech, Anthony Fenech*

OP7.217 Pharmacogenetic testing in precision medicine for statin use

Judith Cerda Inesta, Francesca Wirth, Graziella Zahra, Robert G. Xuereb, Chirstopher Barbara, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP7.218 Pharmaceutical care probleacross transitional care: from hospital to community

Ivan Debono, Louise Grech, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP7.219 Setting up a 24-hour drug information service

Jeffrey Cassar, Lilian M Azzopardi, Louise Grech

OP7.220 Approaching a pharmacy-led interdisciplinary medication safety service

Dustin Balzan, Stephen Falzon, Carmel Abela, Louise Grech, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP7.221 The ePrescription system in development in the Maltese healthcare system – step 1: the general practitioner perspective

Mauro Sacco, Gianluca Bezzina, Sacha Buttigieg, Myra Tilney

OP7.222 Forensic pharmacy: drugs and driving

Abigail Calleja, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP7.223 The use of pharmacogenetic testing in a clinical setting for a patient with multiple allergic reactions

Karen Borg, Joseph Borg

10:15 - 11:30 **Session 7E: Translational Neurosciences**

Chairpersos: *Robert Fern, Richard Muscat*

OP7.224 The axon, its sheath, and the value of basic science for drug discovery

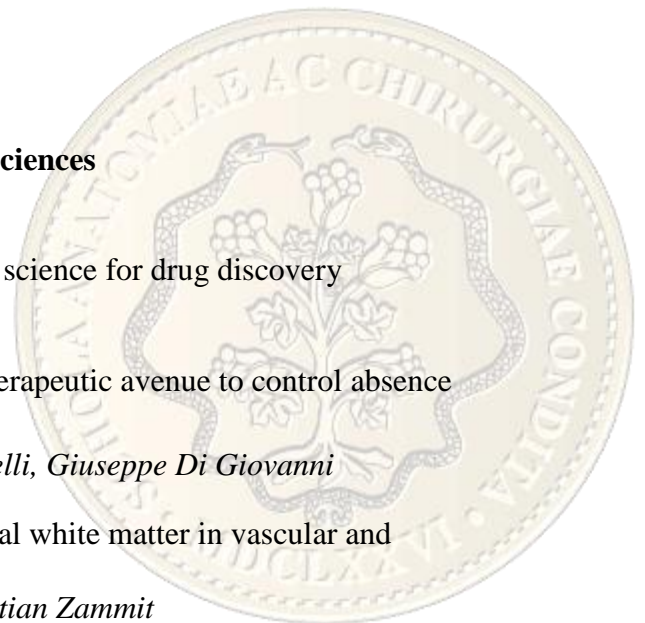
Robert Fern

OP7.225 The Serotonin 5-HT_{2C} receptors as new therapeutic avenue to control absence seizures

Gabriele Deidda, Cristiano Bombardi, Vincenzo Crunelli, Giuseppe Di Giovanni

OP7.226 Novel treatment strategies to protect cerebral white matter in vascular and metabolic disorders

Mario Valentino, Jasmine Vella, Robert Zammit, Christian Zammit



OP7.227 Benchmarking stroke practice at Mater Dei Hospital

Sarah Craus, Valentina Fenech, Julian Cassar, Maria Mallia

OP7.228 Cannabinoids/Serotonin interaction in temporal lobe epilepsy

Giuseppe Di Giovanni

Parallel Session 8

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 8A: Vascular Surgery**

Chairpersons: *Mark Schembri, Kevin Cassar*

OP8.229 Audit on discharge handover documentation at diabetic foot ward

Anthony Pio Dimech, Benjamin Thornton, Kevin Cassar

OP8.230 A decade of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) repair in Malta

Matthew Joe Grima, Kathleen England, Sandra Distefano, Adrian Mizzi, Kevin Cassar

OP8.231 Morbidity and mortality after open revascularisation lower limb surgery

Francesca Theuma, Ruth Scicluna, Kevin Cassar

OP8.232 Radiofrequency ablation for truncal lower limb venous reflux

Francesca Theuma, Denise Hili, Nebojsa Petrovic, Sinisa Pejkić, Kevin Cassar

OP8.233 Mortality in a five-year cohort of patients undergoing major lower extremity amputation in Malta

Keith Pace, Maria Elena Croucher, Nebojsa Petrovic, Kevin Cassar, Sinisa Pejkić

OP8.234 Management of abdominal aortic aneurysm in the endovascular era

Ruth Scicluna, Adrian Mizzi, Kevin Cassar

OP8.235 Incidence of early complications and one-year amputation-free survival rate post-endovascular treatment of infra-inguinal arterial disease in Malta

Kay Vanhear, Maria Ciantar, Mahmoud Hamido, Esther Otukoya, Kevin Cassar, Adrian Mizzi

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 8B: Diabetes**

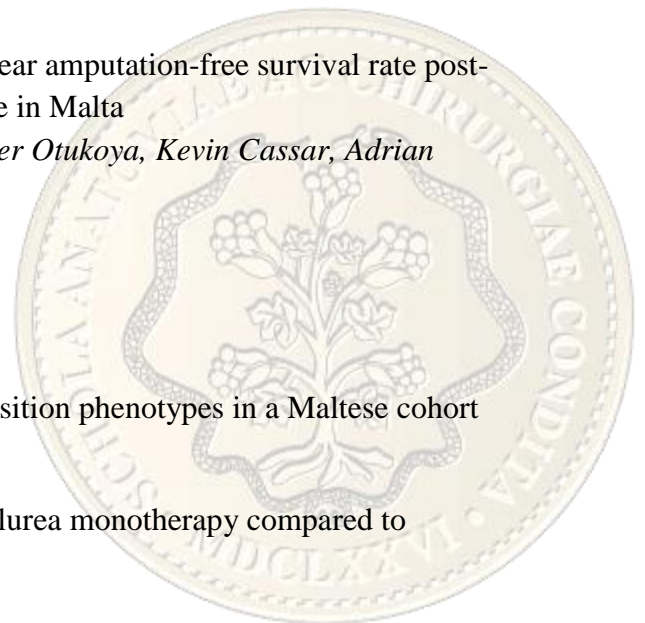
Chairpersons: *Stephen Fava, Mark Grupetta*

OP8.236 Metabolic health and different body composition phenotypes in a Maltese cohort

Rachel Agius, Stephen Fava

OP8.237 All-cause mortality in patients on sulphonylurea monotherapy compared to metformin monotherapy in a national-wide cohort

Sascha Reiff, Stephen Fava



OP8.238 Prevalence of maturity onset diabetes of the young (MODY) in Malta
Ruth Caruana, Benjamin Thornton, Gillian Pace Moore, Lauren Abela, Keith Borg Xuereb, Ian Baldacchino, Nikolai Pace, Josanne Vassallo

OP8.239 Diabetes mellitus type 2 - the Maltese epidemic
Sarah Cuschieri, Josanne Vassallo, Neville Calleja, Julian Mamo

OP8.240 Vitamin D & diabetes- associated complications
Rachel Xuereb, Caroline J. Magri, Sara Xuereb, Robert G. Xuereb, Stephen Fava, Joseph Galea

OP8.241 Genetic characterisation of a Maltese cohort with atypical non-autoimmune diabetes
Nikolai Paul Pace, Ruth Caruana, Johann Craus, Josanne Vassallo

OP8.242 Incidence of type 1 diabetes in childhood and distance from sea
Alexia-Giovanna Abela, Stephen Fava

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 8C: Midgut and Inflammatory Bowel Disease**
Chairpersons: *Jurgen Gerada, Jo-Etienne Abela*

OP8.243 30-day surgical site infections and mortality after abdominal surgery at Mater Dei Hospital
Elaine Borg, Stefan Zammit, Alexia Farrugia

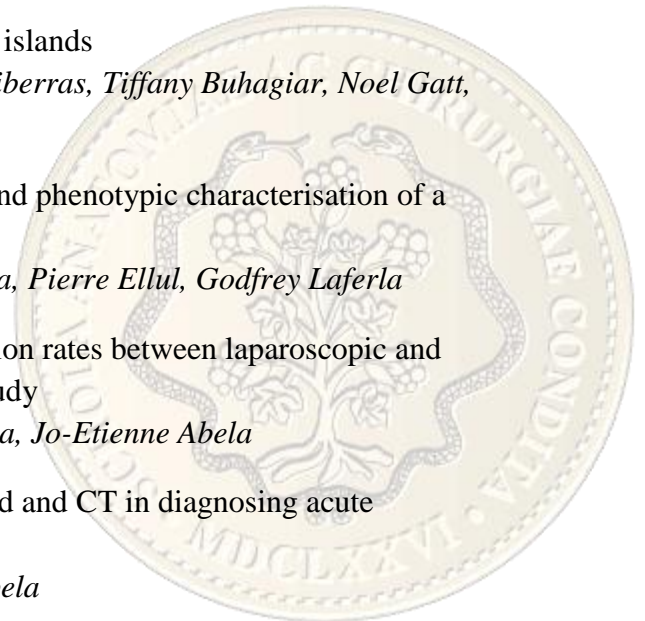
OP8.244 A study on fatigue and levels of physical activity in patients with inflammatory bowel disease
Kelly Gatt

OP8.245 Inflammatory bowel disease in the Maltese islands
Julia Tua, Naomi Piscopo, John Schembri, Martina Sciberras, Tiffany Buhagiar, Noel Gatt, Pierre Ellul

OP8.246 Genome wide association study (GWAS) and phenotypic characterisation of a Maltese Inflammatory bowel disease cohort
John Schembri, Nikolai Pace, Chris Saliba, Sarah Vella, Pierre Ellul, Godfrey Laferla

OP8.247 Comparison of length of stay and readmission rates between laparoscopic and open appendicectomy - a single-centre retrospective study
Kelly Iles, Mark Portelli, Kiara Gascon, Jantess Calleja, Jo-Etienne Abela

OP8.248 The sensitivity and specificity of Ultrasound and CT in diagnosing acute appendicitis – A single centre retrospective study
Kelly Iles, Mark Portelli, Kiara Gascon, Jo-Etienne Abela



OP8.249 Endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) for minimally invasive management of gastric and rectal neuroendocrine tumours (NETs): an international collaboration

Alberto Murino, Andrea May, Nikolaos Lazaridis, Nikolaos Koukias, Erasmia Vlachou, Katie Planche, David Patch, Yoshikazu Hayashi, Edward John Despott

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 8D: Surgical Specialities**

Chairpersons: *Mario Vella, Franco Mercieca*

OP8.250 Assessing the validity of mobile thermographic cameras in the assessment of patients with vascular disease

Samuel Anthony Galea, Kevin Cassar

OP8.251 A retrospective audit on lid malposition surgery

David Agius, Daniel Cassar, Maria De Bono

OP8.252 Comparison of three skin graft meshing techniques

Aaron R Casha, Ruben Gatt, Daphne Attard, Jeffrey Dalli, Marilyn Casha Gauci, Joseph Briffa, Joseph N Grima

OP8.253 Can olfactory function improve after nasal surgery?

Amanda Bartolo, Lepa Lazarova, Samuel C. Leong

OP8.254 A survey of the referrals from the dermatology department to the plastic surgery department (2015-2016)

Daniel Micallef, Clarissa-Marie Zehlicke, Kristen Buhagiar, Janice Azzopardi, Joseph Emanuel Briffa, Francis Xavier Darmanin, Lawrence Scerri

OP8.255 The referral incidence of otitis media in Maltese children with the developmental difficulties

Helen Grech, Monique Borg Inguanez, Snezana aivoric-filipovic

OP8.256 Single-surgeon series of the Ahmed FP7 valve in a mixed glaucoma population: outcomes with one year follow-up

James Vassallo, Francis Carbonaro

11:30 - 12:45 **Session 8E: Experimental Neurosciences**

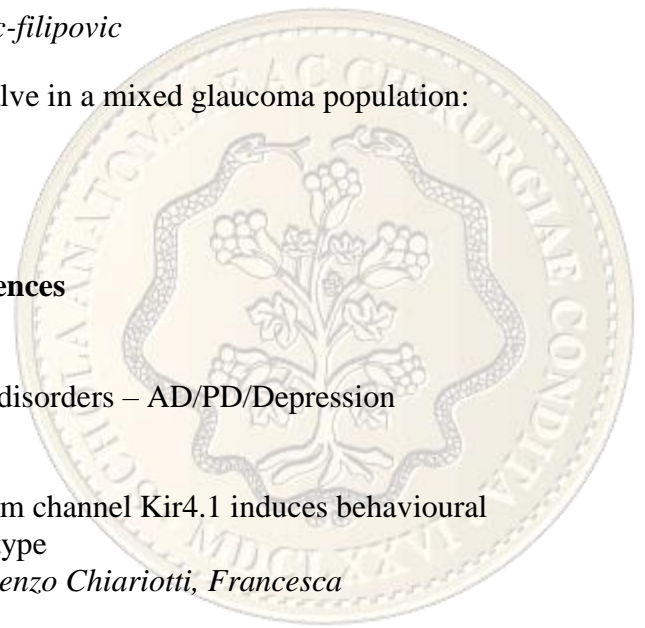
Chairpersons: *Harry Steinbusch, Mauro Pessia*

OP8.257 Brainstem dysfunction in neuropsychiatric disorders – AD/PD/Depression

Harry W.M. Steinbusch

OP8.258 A gain-of-function mutation in the potassium channel Kir4.1 induces behavioural abnormalities in rodents relevant to autistic-like phenotype

Lorena Coretti, Sana Mubashir, Francesca Elliott, Lorenzo Chiariotti, Francesca Lembo, Mauro Pessia, Maria Cristina D'Adamo



OP8.259 Elevated levels of nitric oxide during hypoglycaemia cause structural and functional injury to callosal white matter axons in the rodent brain

Christian Zammit, Jasmine Vella, Robert Zammit, Daniel Borg, Mario Valentino

OP8.260 Role of the lateral habenula in modulating the rewarding effects of nicotine

Massimo Pierucci, Giuseppe Di Giovanni

OP8.261 Management of spontaneous intracranial haemorrhage – the local experience

Sarah Micallef, Andrei Agius Anastasi, Eloise Caruana, Maria Mallia

