

SIXTH MALTA MEDICAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE

30th November – 2nd DECEMBER 2006

Radisson SAS Baypoint Resort, St. Julians, Malta.

**Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
The Medical School, University of Malta**

6th Malta Medical School Conference

Conference Abstract Book

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Gwardamangia

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Abstract Book

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Logo for the Sixth Malta Medical School Conference, designed by Mr Rene Sacco and adapted by Mr Hilary Caruana, Outlook Coop.

Sixth Malta Medical School Conference

30th November – 2nd December, 2006

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Contents

Lists of Participants & Sponsors	x
Foreword by Conference Chairman	x
Welcome by the Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery	x
Scientific Programme at a glance	x
Detailed Scientific Programme	x
Oral Presentations: Abstracts	x
Poster Presentations: Abstracts	x

Lists of Participants & Sponsors

Guest Speakers

<i>Guest</i>	<i>Invited by</i>	<i>Sponsored by</i>
Professor Sir Liam Donaldson Chief Medical Officer, England and Chair, World Alliance for Patient Safety (WHO)	Dept of Institutional Health	Dept Institutional Health
Professor Tim Eden Professor in Paediatric Oncology, Christie Hospital, University of Manchester, UK	Dept of Paediatrics	Puttinu Cares Fund
Mr Dick Rainsbury Director, Raven Department of Education, Royal College of Surgeons, England	Association of Surgeons	Dept of Surgery
Professor David Hatch Chair, Assessment Committee, General Medical Council, UK	Association of Anaesthesiologists	Dept of Anaesthesia
Mr Nick Fahy Deputy Head, Health Strategy Unit, Health and Consumer Protection Directorate- General, European Commission	Ministry of Health	Ministry of Health
Professor Peter Crome Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Keele University, UK, and President, British Geriatric Society	Dept of Geriatric Medicine	Institute of Ageing
Professor Vincenzo Tortorella Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Bari, Italy	Dept of Pharmacy	Dept of Pharmacy
Dr Steve Hudson Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, University of Strathclyde, UK	Dept of Pharmacy	Dept of Pharmacy
Prof Hemant Patel President, Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, UK	Dept of Pharmacy	Dept of Pharmacy

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Conference Prize for Best Oral Presentation	Conference Organising Committee
Conference Prize for Best Poster Presentation	Conference Organising Committee
Best Oral Presentation in Medicine	Association of Physicians
Best Contribution in Paediatrics by Junior Staff	Abbott Laboratories
Best Contribution in Surgery	Association of Surgeons

Foreword by the Chairman

I am delighted to welcome all participants including our eminent guests, invited speakers and registrants, both local and from overseas to the Sixth Malta Medical School Conference. This conference follows the general format of previous conferences in that it is a collection of multidisciplinary sessions with bridging plenary lectures. This set-up create a wide academic field comprising many disparate specialties and has proven to be a successful formula in previous years.

Outside undergraduate curricular teaching, the triennial Medical Conference remains the largest academic activity of the Medical School and is the showpiece event where many hitherto unrecognised yet extremely valid research is presented. As in previous years, the Conference has confirmed the extent and quality of ongoing academic activity taking place in various disciplines on the local scene and was, once again, 'over-subscribed' with regard to abstract submissions. The Scientific Committee was faced with a particularly difficult task to adjudicate abstracts and formulate an exciting scientific programme. Given the limited local financial support and access to resources, the very existence of this Conference, never mind its quality content, is a salutary achievement in which all participants can take great pride.

The organisational milieu for an event of this nature and size, particularly when the financial starting position is a splendid 'near-zero' is, unsurprisingly, a nightmare! It is only through the dedicated support of numerous individuals that the whole thing eventually comes together. To this end, I would sincerely like to thank all my colleagues and friends on the Organising and Scientific Committees together with our ever-patient secretary who have all worked tirelessly for well over eighteen months! I must also thank all the Conference Sponsors and the Pharmaceutical Exhibitors without whose financial support this event would be impossible. Equally, we are very grateful for the commitment, expertise and, above all, patience of the key individuals involved in the Conference Co-ordination, Audiovisual Services, Printers and Hotel Venue. All have been an essential part of the 'team' and have worked hard to ensure that the Conference is a successful yet collective *tour de force*.

I would like to welcome and thank all guest and invited speakers from overseas. Their time and contributions are very greatly appreciated and undoubtedly provide the icing on the academic cake. Finally, a conference of this nature is void without its scientific programme and I must congratulate all those who have provided scientific contributions: ultimately, they have justified the efforts of the Organising and Scientific Committees, and have made the Sixth Malta Medical School Conference possible. To those participants, together with all conference registrants, may I wish you all an enjoyable conference.

Dr Simon Attard Montalto
MBChB, MD (L'pool), FRCP, FRCPC, DCH.
Chairman, Organising and Scientific Committees

Welcome from the Dean

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all participants to the Sixth Malta Medical School Conference.

With the restrictions of being on a small island with a small Medical fraternity, the local medical community finds it immensely profitable to host meeting of this kind in order to ensure cross-fertilisation. This will ensure that our medical standards remain comparable to the best on the Continent.

As in the previous conferences, the present one is multi-disciplinary and encompasses a wide spectrum of medical and surgical specialties. Indeed, judging by the number of submissions received, practically all specialties are represented and one can be truly proud of an academically vibrant Medical School.

A special warm welcome is extended to our overseas guests who have come over specifically to share their vast experience in their respective fields with us.

On behalf of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Organising Committee who have worked unstintingly for the success of the Conference; the sponsors without whose support funding of the Conference would have been difficult and the Medical fraternity, without whose loyalty such events would not be possible.

I wish the Sixth Malta Medical School Conference every success.

**Professor Godfrey LaFerla,
Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Surgery**

30th November 2006

Scientific Programme at a glance

Thursday, 30th November

- 08:00** *Registration*
- 08:30** *Welcome*
Dr Simon Attard Montalto
Chairman, 6th Malta Medical School Conference
Dr Ray Busuttil
Director General, Health
- 09:00** *Plenary 1*
Professor Sir Liam Donaldson
Safety in Healthcare
- 09:45** *Parallel Sessions*
1A Public Health
1B Infectious Diseases
1C Diabetes
- 11:00** *Coffee & Exhibition*
- 11:30** *Parallel Sessions*
1D Medicine I
1E Paediatrics
1F Pharmacology
- 12:45** *Lunch*
- 13:30** *Coffee & Exhibition*
- 14:00** *Plenary 2*
Professor Tim Eden
What causes childhood cancer?
- 14:45** *Parallel Sessions*
1G Oncology
1H Pharmacy
1J ENT & Dentistry
- 16:00** *Coffee & Exhibition*
- 16:30** **Poster Session 1**
- 18:00** Close
- 20:00** Book Launch, Department of Health

Friday, 1st December

- 08:00** *Registration*
- 09:00** *Plenary 3*
Mr Dick Rainsbury
Breast cancer surgery: Back to the future?
- 09:45** *Parallel Sessions*
2A Surgery I
2B Neonatology
2C Medicine II
- 11:00** *Coffee & Exhibition*
- 11:30** *Parallel Sessions*
2D Cardiology
2E Obstetrics & Gynaecology
2F Geriatrics
- 12:45** *Lunch*
- 13:30** *Coffee & Exhibition*
- 14:00** *Plenary 4*
Professor David Hatch
Withholding and withdrawing treatment
- 14:45** *Parallel Sessions*
2G Anaesthesia
2H Health Management
2J Medicine III
- 16:00** *Coffee & Exhibition*
- 16:30** **Poster Session 2**
- 18:00** Close
- 20:00** **Gala Dinner, Radisson SAS, Golden Sands**
-

Saturday, 2nd December

08:00 *Registration*

09:00 *Plenary 5*

Mr Nick Fahy

Consultation on European Community action on Health Services

09:45 *Parallel Sessions*

3A Surgery II

3B Medicine IV

3C Psychiatry

11:00 *Coffee & Exhibition*

11:30 *Parallel Sessions*

3D Education

3E Orthopaedics

3F Medicine V

12:45 *Prizegiving*

13:30 *Closing Ceremony*

Professor Richard Muscat

Pro-Rector, University of Malta

Detailed Scientific Programme

Plenary Lectures

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Thursday, 30th November

- 09:00** *Plenary 1*
Safety in Healthcare
Professor Sir Liam Donaldson
Chief Medical Officer, England
Chair, World Alliance for Patient Safety (WHO)
Honorary Professor in Applied Epidemiology, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
- 14:00** *Plenary 2*
What causes childhood cancer?
Professor Tim Eden
Professor in Paediatric Oncology, Christie Hospital, University of Manchester, UK

Friday, 1st December

- 09:00** *Plenary 3*
Breast cancer surgery: Back to the future?
Mr Dick Rainsbury
Director, Raven Department of Education, Royal College of Surgeons, England
- 14:00** *Plenary 4*
Withholding and withdrawing treatment
Professor David Hatch
Chair, Assessment Committee, General Medical Council, UK

Saturday, 2nd December

- 09:00** *Plenary 5*
Consultation on European Community action on Health Services
Mr Nick Fahy
Deputy Head, Health Strategy Unit, Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General, European Commission
-

Parallel Sessions

Venues: ***Sessions A, D, G*** ***Grand Ballroom (Ground Floor)***
 Sessions B, E, H ***Carlson Suite (5th Floor)***
 Sessions C, F, J ***Marie Louise Suite (7th Floor)***

Thursday, 30th November

Parallel Session 1A

Public Health

Venue: Grand Ballroom
Chairpersons: Dr John Cachia
 Dr Andrew Amato Gauci

- 09:45 O-001 The 1918 Spanish flu epidemic in Malta: lessons for 2006
Neville Calleja, Denis Vella Baldacchino
- 09:58 O-002 Immunogenicity, safety and reactogenicity of a combined
Haemophilus influenzae type b and *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup
C-tetanus toxoid conjugate vaccine in infants
*David Pace, MD Snape, S Westcar, N Begg, J Wysocki, H Czajka, G
Maechler, D Boutriau, AJ Pollard*
- 10:11 O-003 The school health service - a needs assessment
Marvic Sammut, Doriette Soler, Miriam Dalmas
- 10:24 O-004 Community services for Malta's growing elderly population: screening
- the missing link in our portfolio?
Julian Mamo, Charmaine Gauci, Neville Calleja
- 10:37 O-005 The implications of the European Union on the Maltese health care
system
Richard Zammit
- 10:50 Panel Discussion
11:00 Coffee Break
-

Parallel Session 1B

Infectious Diseases

Venue: Carlson Suite

Chairpersons: Dr Chris Barbara

Dr Charles Mallia Azzopardi

09:45 O-006 Is MRSA control an achievable target and what will it cost?

Michael A Borg

09:56 O-007 MRSA in autopsy cases

MC Camilleri Podesta', Maurice Zarb Adami, Paul Cuschieri, Marie Therese Camilleri Podesta', Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian Azzopardi

10:07 O-008 Hand hygiene practices amongst medical doctors at St. Luke's Hospital

Maxine Montefort, Sarah Chetcuti, Elizabeth Scicluna, Michael A Borg

10:18 O-009 Impact of the introduction of antibiotic prescribing guidelines in St. Luke's Hospital, Malta

Michael A Borg, Peter Zarb, Paul Cuschieri, Charles Mallia Azzopardi, Tonio Piscopo, Elizabeth Scicluna

10:29 O-010 Importance of practical undergraduate instruction in venepuncture and intravenous cannula insertion techniques to reduce the risk of needlestick injury in junior medical doctors

Elizabeth Scicluna, Michael A Borg

10:40 O-011 Three year sentinel surveillance of influenza activity in Malta

Tanya Melillo-Fenech

10:51 Panel Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 1C

Diabetes

Venue: Marie Louise Suite

Chairpersons: Professor Joseph Azzopardi
Dr Josanne Vassallo

09:45 O-012 A pilot evaluational study assessing adherence to recommendations for avoidance of hypoglycaemia in insulin treated Maltese diabetic drivers
Sandro Vella, Mario J Cachia.

09:58 O-013 Audit of the management of patients admitted with Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA) to St Lukes Hospital
Miguel Debono, Alexia-Giovanna Abela, Caroline Jane Magri, Josanne Vassallo, Joseph Azzopardi

10:11 O-014 An audit of culture and sensitivity reports of infected diabetic foot ulcers
L Micallef Grimaud, Mario J Cachia, P Camilleri

10:24 O-015 Charcot foot: an often misdiagnosed diabetic complication
Sandro Vella, Mario J Cachia

10:37 O-016 Association study of Libyan and Maltese Patients with Type II diabetes mellitus
A Al-Ashtar, J Azzopardi, S Bezzina Wettinger, J Borg, W Cassar, R Galdies, Chris Scerri, Josanne Vassallo, Alex Felice

11:50 Panel Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 1D

Medicine I

Venue: Grand Ballroom
Chairpersons: Professor Herbert Gilles
Dr Julian Mamo

- 11:30 O-017 Death certification in Malta: Attitudes and knowledge
K England, Hugo Agius Muscat, Neville Calleja
- 11:43 O-018 Observational study reviewing the practice in Malta of ordering routine chest X-rays on every medical patient admitted to hospital
Nicola Schembri, Stuart Schembri, Tom Fardon
- 11:56 O-019 Audit on the treatment of patients admitted to medical wards with a diagnosis of COPD exacerbation
J Micallef, D Sammut, D Cachia, C Fsadni, P Fsadni
- 12:09 O-020 A full cycle audit on the correct assessment of postural blood pressure
Peter Ferry
- 12:22 O-021 Audit of congenital adrenal hyperplasia diagnosed at an endocrine outpatient clinic
Sandro Vella, Mario J Cachia
- 12:35 Panel Discussion
12:45 Lunch Break
-

Parallel Session 1E

Paediatrics

Venue: Carlson Suite
Chairpersons: Professor Tim Eden
Dr Paul Vassallo Agius

- 11:30 O-022 Childhood obesity: A critical Maltese health issue
Victor Grech, Maria Ellul, John Torpiano, Doriette Soler, Mario Caruana, Simon Attard Montalto
- 11:41 O-023 Breastfeeding in Malta: Why are rates so low?
Helen Borg, Mary Buttigieg-Said, Simon Attard Montalto
- 11:52 O-024 The Management of asthma in schools
Richard Zammit
- 12:03 O-025 Current trends in child abuse in Malta
Mariella Mangion, D Zerafa, Simon Attard Montalto
- 12:14 O-026 Declining birth rates and social factors - implications for paediatric private practice
Victor Grech, Simon Attard-Montalto, Charles Savona-Ventura
- 12:25 O-027 Invasive meningococcal disease in Maltese children and adolescents
David Pace, Simon Attard Montalto, Anthony Galea Debono
- 12:36 Panel Discussion
12:45 Lunch Break
-

Parallel Session 1F

Pharmacology

Venue: Marie Louise Suite

Chairpersons: Professor Roger Ellul Micallef
Dr Cecil Pace Asciaq

- 11:30 O-028 Assessment of the appropriate use of medicines at the medical admissions section of the emergency department
Lorna Marie West, Maria Cordina, Brendan Caruana Montaldo, Joseph M Cacciottolo, Scott Cunningham, Robert Gordon
- 11:41 O-029 Molecular dynamics of the androgen receptor
Claire Shoemake, Stephen Doughty, Victor Ferrito, Anthony Serracino Inglott
- 11:52 O-030 Beyond the lipid-lowering view of statins: modulation of T cell response in autoimmune disease
S Waiczies, I Bendix, M Ratner, I Nazarenko, S Brocke, O Ullrich, F Zipp
- 12:03 O-031 Novel anti-cancer agents, PBTs: Inhibition of Gleevec-resistance in leukemic K562 CML cells by the PBTs.
Cecil Pace-Asciak, Na Qiao, Denis Reynaud, Xiang Li
- 12:14 O-032 Role of nicotine in memory formation, neural cell proliferation and apoptosis
C Scerri
- 12:25 O-033 Development of personalized medication strategies for the treatment of neuroblastoma
Duncan Ayers
- 12:36 Panel Discussion
12:45 Lunch Break
-

Parallel Session 1G

Oncology

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Chairpersons: Dr Bridget Ellul

Dr Steve Brincat

- 14:45 O-034 Incidence and survival of childhood CNS tumours in Malta:
1995 – 2004
*Stephen Attard, Miriam Dalmas, Neville Calleja, Nathalie Galea,
Victor Calvagna*
- 14:56 O-035 A descriptive study of childhood leukaemia in Maltese children from
1980 to 2000
Nathalie Galea, Victor Calvagna, Miriam Dalmas, Alicja Grabowska
- 15:07 O-036 Recurrent and malignant pleomorphic adenomas in major salivary
glands
A Betts, James S DeGaetano, GE Camilleri
- 15:18 O-037 Differences in the in vitro bioactivity of crude maltese honeybee
propolis collected at different sites across the Maltese islands
*EJ Zammit, K Blair Theuma, M Muraglia, Marie Therese Camilleri
Podesta, S Darmanin, JA Buhagiar, Maurice Zarb Adami*
- 15:29 O-038 Dynamic contrast enhanced MRI (DCE-MRI) predicts radiation
response in cervix cancer
*MA Zahra, E Sala, DJ Lomas, RA Crawford, M Arends, J Brenton,
LT Tan*
- 15:40 O-039 Novel methods for symptom control in palliative care in Malta
Marilyn Casha
- 15:51 Panel Discussion
- 16:00 Coffee Break
-

Parallel Session 1H

Pharmacy

Venue: Carlson Suite

Chairpersons: Professor Hemant Patel

Professor Anthony Serracino Inglott

14:45 O-040 Adherence, Compliance or Concordance to drug therapy?
Anthony Serracino-Inglott

14:58 O-041 Pharmacist interventions- should it include prescribing?
Lilian M Azzopardi

15:11 O-042 Pricing of medicines- who is responsible?
Maurice Zarb-Adami

15:24 O-043 Integration of basic sciences with practice
Vincenzo Tortorella

15:37 O-044 Are research programmes in pharmaceutical care relevant?
Steve Hudson

15:50 Panel Discussion

16:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 1J

ENT & Dentistry

Venue: Marie Louise Suite
Chairpersons: Dr Simon Camilleri
Dr Alex Azzopardi

- 14:45 O-045 Occurrence of post-tonsillectomy haemorrhage in Malta: Do pre/peri/post-operative antibiotics influence outcome ?
Mark Fiorentino, Hermann Borg Xuereb, Mario Said
- 14:58 O-046 Conventional or laser stapedotomy – a comparison of functional results and outcomes
Mario Said, Marius Grima
- 15:11 O-047 An assessment of the validity of the current practice of antibiotic prophylaxis in uncomplicated nasal surgery
Marius Grima, Mario Said
- 15:24 O-048 A comparison of the effects of paracetamol and a corticosteroid against a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug on the sequelae following the surgical removal of mandibular third molars
Adam Bartolo
- 15:37 O-049 Acute management of dentoalveolar trauma in children
Audrey Camilleri
- 15:50 Panel Discussion
16:00 Coffee Break
-

Friday, 1st December

Parallel Session 2A

Surgery I

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Chairpersons: Professor Godfrey LaFerla
Mr Dick Rainsbury

09:45 O-050 Training in surgery
Dick Rainsbury

10:05 O-051 Audit on the ability of house officers to predict the results of pre-operative blood investigations in patients undergoing elective surgical procedures
Mark Fiorentino, Mark Schembri

10:14 O-052 Operative cholangiography in the laparoscopic era - back to the future
Jo-Etienne Abela, Lyad Eid, Ahmed HM Nassar

10:23 O-053 The influence of peritoneal lavage on bacterial concentration in patients undergoing appendicectomy
D Aquilina, M Szczepinski, R Fenech, Paul Cuschieri, Godfrey LaFerla

10:32 O-054 Empyema thoracis in children with community acquired chest infections
Chris Fearne, Valerie Said Conti

10:41 O-055 Validation of a Maltese translation of the IPSS score (IPSS-Mlt.)
J Sciberras, PA Zammit, S Bugeja, R Jovanovic, Steve Mattocks, Karl German

10:50 Panel Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 2B

Neonatology

Venue: Carlson Suite

Chairpersons: Dr Simon Attard Montalto
Dr Victor Grech

09:45 O-056 The impact of artificial reproductive technology on neonatal mortality
in the Maltese Islands
Paul Soler, Doriette Soler

09:56 O-057 A review of central and peripheral vascular access lines in Maltese
neonates
Valerie Zammit, Josella Fenech, Nathalie Galea, Victor Grech

10:07 O-058 A series of cases of spontaneously aborted fetuses
AM Scerri, Alfred Cuschieri

10:18 O-059 Screening cranial ultrasound examinations in sick preterm and term
neonates - the spectrum of findings
Doriette Soler, Paul Soler, Raymond Parascandolo

10:29 O-060 National birth weight for gestational age centile charts and their
inferences
Valerie Zammit, Anton Buhagiar, Victor Grech

10:40 O-061 The national neonatal screening programme: Is it time for a change?
*Simon Attard Montalto, Richard Zammit, Chris Scerri, John Torpiano,
Gerald Buhagiar, Ray Parascandolo, Marcelle Cipriott, Alex Felice*

10:51 Panel Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 2C

Medicine II

Venue: Marie Louise Suite
Chairpersons: Professor Marie Therese Podestá
Dr Anthony Fenech

- 09:45 O-062 Guideline for suspected lower limb deep vein thrombosis
Tonio Piscopo, J Micallef, D Sammut, D Barbara, J Borg, J Diacono
- 09:58 O-063 Audit on the treatment of patients newly admitted to the medical wards
from casualty with a diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis
D Cachia, James Pocock, Andrew J Cassar, M Magro
- 10:11 O-064 Coombs-positive autoimmune haemolytic anaemia in ulcerative colitis
L Micallef Grimaud, MJ Cachia
- 10:24 O-065 Is the degree of stereo acuity affected by correction of the refractive
error?
Martin Francalanza
- 10:37 O-066 A retrospective study on visual impairment in childhood in Malta
Stephen Attard, Martin Francalanza
- 10:50 Panel Discussion
11:00 Coffee Break
-

Parallel Session 2D

Cardiology

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Chairpersons: Professor Albert Fenech
Mr Alex Manche

- 11:30 O-067 Lung cancer in Malta: from presentation to surgery
Aaron Casha, Walter Busutil, Joseph Galea
- 11:41 O-068 A single centre experience of the arterial revascularisation trial (ART)
- a randomised trial to compare survival following bilateral versus
single internal mammary grafting in coronary revascularisation
Kate Rochford, Graham Cooper, Peter Braidley, Norman Briffa
- 11:52 O-069 Early use of dialysis after cardiac surgery
Alexander Manché
- 12:03 O-070 A retrospective audit of the outcome of patients who performed
exercise stress tests
Caroline Jane Magri, Noel Gatt, Albert Fenech
- 12:14 O-071 Transcatheter ablation of muscular right ventricular outflow tract
obstruction: a new technique
Joseph V Degiovanni, Victor Grech
- 12:25 O-072 Cardiac catheterisation for paediatric and congenital heart disease in
Malta
Chris Sciberras, Victor Grech
- 12:36 Panel Discussion
12:45 Lunch Break
-

Parallel Session 2E

Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Venue: Carlson Suite
Chairpersons: Professor Mark Brincat
Mr Ray Galea

11:30 O-073 Intervertebral disc height in postmenopausal women with osteoporotic vertebral fractures
Yves Muscat Baron, Mark P Brincat, Raymond Galea, Neville Calleja

11:41 O-074 Polycystic ovaries produce 75 times more anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) than normal ovaries.
Laura Pellatt, Laurine Hanna, Mark Brincat, Ray Galea, Henrietta Brain, Saffron Whitehead, Helen Mason

11:52 O-075 Use of antenatal dexamethasone in late pregnancy and its effect on incidence of neonatal respiratory distress after elective caesarean sections
R Custo, K Zammit, H Grech, J Calleja Agius, Mark P Brincat

12:03 O-076 The effect of sildenafil citrate on the sultan and modified sultan scores in women with severe dysmenorrhoea
R Custo, Yves Muscat Baron, Mark Brincat

12:14 O-077 Dydrogesterone: a possible preventative treatment for preterm delivery
Yves Muscat Baron, M Z Mangion, Mark Formosa, Ray Galea, Mark Brincat

12:25 O-078 The emotional well-being of Maltese men and women during the transition to parenthood
Rita Borg Xuereb

12:36 Panel Discussion

12:45 Lunch Break

Parallel Session 2F

Geriatrics

Venue: Marie Louise Suite
Chairpersons: Professor Peter Crome
Dr Peter Ferry

- 11:30 O-079 General and Geriatric Medicine: Together or apart?
Peter Crome
- 11:50 O-080 An evaluation of prescribing habits in a chronic care institution for the elderly
Anthony Fiorini, S Abela, A Vella, P Zammit
- 11:59 O-081 Does a Parkinson's disease class improve the knowledge of Parkinson's disease patients and their carers?
Jurgen Gerada, Peter Ferry, Neville Calleja
- 12:08 O-082 Evaluation of the Parkinson's class programme provided at a rehabilitation hospital for the elderly
Victoria Massalha
- 12:17 O-083 Official approved translation of the EQ-5D health questionnaire into the Maltese language
Mark A Vassallo
- 12:26 O-084 Do older people perceive their visual loss?
E Hattat, Peter Ferry
- 12:35 Panel Discussion
12:45 Lunch Break
-

Parallel Session 2G

Anaesthesia

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Chairpersons: Professor David Hatch
Dr Joseph Zarb Adami

14:45 O-085 Medicine regulation
David Hatch

15:05 O-086 The influence of the anaesthetic technique on the surgical outcome of patients after fractured hip surgery
Joanna Gonzi, Mariella Zammit

15:16 O-087 Genomics in cardiac surgery
Vladimir Tomic, Noel Borg

15:27 O-088 The introduction of a nurse-led sedation protocol in intensive care leads to a reduction in mortality in patients undergoing prolonged mechanical ventilation
Andrew Aquilina, Stephen Sciberras, Marylyse Galea Scannura

15:38 O-089 Outcome of patients admitted to intensive care with meningococcal septicaemia/meningitis
Joanna Gonzi, Carmel Abela

15:49 Panel Discussion

16:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 2H

Health Management

Venue: Carlson Suite

Chairpersons: Dr Natasha Muscat Azzopardi
Dr Renald Blundell

14:45 O-090 Improving service delivery in an outpatient setting
Myra K Tilney

14:56 O-091 Clinic waiting time at the lipid clinic, St Luke's hospital
Conrad Azzopardi

15:07 O-092 An evaluation of the discharge planning process at Zammit Clapp
Hospital
Brigitte Vassallo

15:18 O-093 Emerging ethical themes in european research. Ethical aspects of
research projects under FP6
Myra K Tilney

15:29 O-094 Should pharmacies be involved in surveillance for influenza-like
illness?
G Spiteri, B Smyth, M McCorry, H Buchanan

15:40 O-095 Paramedics' and pharmacists' attitudes towards changes in working
times in St. Luke's Hospital
Nadine Borg, Natasha Azzopardi Muscat

15:51 Panel Discussion

16:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 2J

Medicine III

Venue: Marie Louise Suite
Chairpersons: Professor Frederick Fenech
Dr Maria Cordina

- 14:45 O-096 A first study on the frequency and phenotypic effects of HFE gene mutations in the Maltese population
R Galdies, Edgar Pullicino, W Cassar, S Bezzina-Wettinger, J Borg, Alex Felice
- 14:58 O-097 The value of a routine duodenal biopsy at gastroscopy in diagnosing Coeliac disease
James Pocock, Alfred Caruana Galizia, James Degaetano
- 15:11 O-098 Analysis of waiting time for cadaveric kidney transplantation
Emanuel Farrugia
- 15:24 O-099 Effect of switching from subcutaneous to intravenous erythropoietin in haemodialysis patients
Joseph Farrugia, Emanuel Farrugia
- 15:37 O-100 Consumption of medicines among adolescents in Malta
Rita Darmanin Ellul, Maria Cordina, Anthony Fenech, Andrew Amato Gauci, Anton Buhagiar, Janet Mifsud
- 15:50 Panel Discussion
16:00 Coffee Break
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Saturday, 2nd December

Parallel Session 3A

Surgery II

Venue: Grand Ballroom

Chairpersons: Professor Victor Griffiths
Mr Arthur Felice

- 09:45 O-101 Single-stage management for patients with uncomplicated acute gallstone pancreatitis - are pre-operative MRCP and ERCP really necessary?
Jo-Etienne Abela, Ahmed Mirza, Ahmed HM Nassar
- 09:56 O-102 Incidence of breast cancer in women referred for screening to the breast clinic, St Luke's Hospital
Charles Cini, Gordon Caruana-Dingli, Antoinette Attard, Charles Swain
- 10:07 O-103 Modified Mathieu procedure for hypospadias repair
Chris Fearne
- 10:18 O-104 A lower than expected incidence of HPV DNA detected in Maltese benign and malignant breast tumours
R Mallia, JP Camilleri, C Camenzuli, P Cacciattolo, J Cauchi, A Safraz, P Schembri-Wismayer
- 10:29 O-105 A review of radical cystectomies carried out in Malta over the past 8 years
S Bugeja, PA Zammit, J Sciberras, S Mattocks, K German
- 10:40 O-106 Living-donor renal transplantation: Our local experience
J Psaila, R Attard, Emanuel Farrugia, Louis Buhagiar, Alex R Attard
- 10:51 Panel Discussion
- 11:00 Coffee Break
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Parallel Session 3B

Medicine IV

Venue: Carlson Suite
Chairpersons: Professor Carmel Mallia
Dr Mario Sammut

- 09:45 O-107 Juvenile Huntington's disease in Malta
Alfred Cuschieri, Anthony Galea-Debono, Edith Said
- 09:58 O-108 Two-photon imaging of cell-specific fluorophores in transgenic mice –
an exploratory tool to study mechanisms of white matter injury
Mario Valentino, Mark P Goldberg
- 10:11 O-109 Are chondroitin and glucosamine in combination effective in the
treatment of osteoarthritic pain?
Mario R Sammut
- 10:24 O-110 A Survey of Paget's disease of bone in Malta
Bernard Coleiro, Carmel Mallia
- 10:37 O-111 Biological therapy in the rheumatic disease: five year
experience in Malta
Carmel Mallia
- 10:50 Panel Discussion
11:00 Coffee Break
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Parallel Session 3C

Psychiatry

Venue: Marie Louise Suite

Chairpersons: Dr David Cassar

Dr Chris Scerri

09:45 O-112 Community mental health services in Malta and their development:

A review

David Cassar, M Caruana

09:58 O-113 Establishing whether a community mental health team has managed to reduce the number of psychiatric admissions to hospital

J Vella Baldacchino, K Buhagiar, E Cini, M Xuereb, R Coleiro R

10:01 O-114 The impact of having a family member facing mental health problems on the caregiver and the family: How can social and psychiatric services be of help?

Angela Abela, Anna Maria Vella, Ruth Farrugia

10:14 O-115 Establishing whether there is a correlation between the psychiatric diagnosis, the number of admissions and the length of stay spent at hospital

J Vella Baldacchino, R Coleiro, M Xuereb, E Cini, K Buhagiar

10:37 O-116 Maltese translation of the Camberwell Assessment of Need

L Xerri, J Vella Baldacchino, E Cini

10:50 Panel Discussion

11:00 Coffee Break

Parallel Session 3D

Medical Education

Venue: Grand Ballroom
Chairpersons: Professor Joseph Cacciottolo
Mr Nikolai Attard

- 11:30 O-117 Attitudes of medical and dental professionals and students towards research
S Azzopardi, Paul Cacciottolo, A Fenech, C Galea, Wilfred Galea, M J Grima, R Pullicino, AM Scerri, N Schembri
- 11:43 O-118 Gender and performance in the MD degree final examination in medicine
Cynthia Farrugia Jones, Joseph Cacciottolo
- 11:56 O-119 Medical students' perspective on pharmaceutical marketing
Benedict Vella Briffa, AM Scerri, KB Theuma
- 12:09 O-120 The Course in Behavioural Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery: A Review
David Cassar
- 12:22 O-121 Developing a specialist training programme in Family Medicine for Malta
Mario R Sammut
- 12:35 Panel Discussion
12:45 Prizes and Closing Ceremony
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Parallel Session 3E

Orthopaedics

Venue: Carlson Suite

Chairpersons: Mr Frederick Zammit Maempil
Mr Charles Grixti

- 11:30 O-122 A simple method for the objective assessment of thenar atrophy – a preliminary study
Laurence A Galea, John Agius, Clive Bezzina, Charles Sciberras
- 11:41 O-123 One year mortality after proximal femoral fractures
J Galea, S Zammit S, Massimo Abela, Charles Grixti
- 11:52 O-124 Hand infections severe enough to warrant hospital admission
Alec Sultana, Clive Karl Bezzina, Carmel Sciberras
- 12:03 O-125 Hand and wrist configurations in patients with carpal tunnel syndrome
Laurence A Galea, Ray Gatt, Charles Sciberras
- 12:14 O-126 A review of the relationship between obesity and outcome of total knee replacement
Kirill Micallef Stafrace, G Pecotic, J Cutajar, Anthony Bernard
- 12:25 O-127 Biomechanical analysis of lumbar spine implants
Z Sant, JN Borg, Z Florian
- 12:36 Panel Discussion
- 12:45 Prizes and Closing Ceremony
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Parallel Session 3F

Medicine V

Venue: Marie Louise Suite

Chairpersons: Professor Angela Xuereb
Professor Alfred Cuschieri

- 11:30 O-128 A profile of genetic diseases in Malta
Alfred Cuschieri, Edith Said, S Suleiman
- 11:43 O-129 Linkage to a region on chromosome 11p12 in two Maltese families with severe osteoporosis
C Vidal, Ray Galea, Mark Brincat, Angela Xuereb Anastasi
- 11:56 O-130 Translation of IGBP-1 mRNA contributes to the regulation of expansion and differentiation of erythroid progenitors
G Grech, M Blazquez-Domingo, H Beug, B Löwenberg, M von Lindern
- 12:09 O-131 Haemoglobin F Malta I: Interaction in vivo that regulate gamma to beta globin gene switching
J Borg, Chris Scerri, R Galdies, W Cassar, M Pizzuto, M Caruana, Alex Felice
- 12:22 O-132 An update of beta-thalassaemia carrier screening in Malta
Alex Felice, R Galdies, W Cassar, M Pizzuto, J Borg, S Bezzina-Wettinger, M Caruana, Chris Scerri
- 12:35 Panel Discussion
- 12:45 Prizes and Closing Ceremony
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Oral Presentations

Poster Presentations