## Detailed Scientific Programme

### Thursday 3rd December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08:40 – 09:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Dr. R Galea</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chairman IX Malta Medical School Conference</td>
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<td>H.E. Mary Louise Coleiro Preca</td>
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<td>President of the Republic of Malta</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:00 - 09:45</td>
<td>Plenary I</td>
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<td>Chairperson: R Galea</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The nature and nurture of professional excellence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>I. Curran</td>
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<td>09:45 – 10:15</td>
<td>Coffee Break and Exhibitors</td>
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### Parallel Session 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1A (Clinical Pharmacy)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairpersons: A Lau, LM Azzopardi</td>
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<tr>
<td>OP1.01 Contemporary clinical pharmacy practice and education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Lau</td>
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<td>OP1.02 Pharmacist-led personalisation of antiplatelet therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francesca Wirth, Graziella Zahra, Robert G Xuereb, Christopher Barbara, Albert Fenech, Lilian M Azzopardi</td>
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<td>OP1.03 Clinical implementation of the rheumatoid arthritis medication assessment tool – RhMAT</td>
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<td>Louise Grech, Victor Ferrito, Liberato Camilleri, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian M Azzopardi</td>
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### Session 1B (Gastroenterology, Surgery)

| OP1.04 Assessing the perception and awareness of clinicians on biosimilars |
| Kathlene Cassar, David Zammit Dimech, Louise Grech, Dustin Balzan, Anthony Cutajar, Paul John Cassar |
| OP1.05 Chronopharmacology in hypertension – valsartan and amlodipine administration |
| Sephorah Falzon, Louise Grech, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian Azzopardi |
| 10:15 – 11:30 | Session 1B (Gastroenterology, Surgery) |
| Chairpersons: M Vassallo, A Cuschieri |
| OP1.06 The role of biomarkers in determining clinical activity in inflammatory bowel disease |
| Nicholas Paul Delicata, Neville Azzopardi, Pierre Ellul |
| OP1.07 Upper gastrointestinal malignancy - a losing battle? |
| Maria Petra Agius, Marc Gingell Littlejohn, Jo Etienne Abela |
| OP1.08 Columnar-lined oesophagus and oesophageal cancer in Malta - results from the first national patient registry |
| Rebecca Dalli, John Schembri, Alex Attard, Mario Vassallo, Pierre Ellul, James Pocock, James Degeatano, Jo Etienne Abela |
| OP1.09 Pregnancy outcomes in female patients with inflammatory bowel disease |
| Stefania Chetcuti Zammit, Mandy Caruana, Konstantinos Katsanos, Gerassimos Mantzaris, Monica Cesarini, Uri Kopylov, Louise Zammit, Godfrey LaFerla, Pierre Ellul |
| OP1.10 To assess the value of blue dye and radiological contrast tests after major oesophago-gastric and duodenal surgery |
| Maria Petra Agius, Kristian Micallef, Andre Navarro, Jo Etienne Abela |
OP1.11 Cystic lesions of the pancreas: need for local guidelines?
Julia Gauci, Kelvin Cortis, Neville Azzopardi

OP1.12 Temporal trends in the epidemiology, management and outcomes of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma in Malta
James Gauci, Martina Muscat, Jonathan Gauci, Samuel Galea, Martina Wismayer, Richard Pullicino, Kelvin Cortis, Jurgen Gerada

10:15 – 11:30 Session 1C
Paediatrics

Chairpersons: V Grech, S Attard Montalto

OP1.13 Group B Streptococcal Disease in infants in Malta
Mandy Caruana, David Pace

OP1.14 Body maps and proformas in Safeguarding; ensuring best practice
Kevin Borg, Manjari Tanwar, Mariella Mangion, Deborah Hodes

OP1.15 Additional 2D ultrasound views enhance the detection of congenital heart disease in the second trimester
Maria Anna Zammit, Victor Grech, Miriam Gatt, Simon Attard Montalto

OP1.16 Introduction of a blood-spot screening programme for neonatal thyroid disease: Impact on safety and cost-effectiveness.
Ryan Farrugia, Jelena Martic, Tara Grima, Paul Soler

OP1.17 The clinical burden of Phenylketonuria in a Maltese cohort
Stephen Attard, Simon Attard Montalto

OP1.18 ‘You have to experience it…it to truly understand it’ The voices of Maltese parents raising young children born with intellectual disability risks: Emotional needs
Elayne Azzopardi, Jois Stansfield, Julie Marshall

OP1.19 Paediatric Emergency Severity Index and Time of First Medical Contact
Paul Torpiano, David Cini, Paul Soler

10:15 - 11:30 Session 1D
Cardiology

Chairpersons: S. Chetcuti, R. Xuereb

OP1.20 Door-to-balloon time in ST segment elevation myocardial infarction at Mater Dei Hospital
John Bonello, Maria Farrugia, Philip Dingli

OP1.21 Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) Related Morbidity and Mortality
Elton Pllaha, Matthew Mercieca Balbi, Alice May Moore, Kentaro Yamagata, Sara Xuereb, Matthew Bonello, Karl Camilleri, Richard Apap Bologna, Jeremy Fleri Soler, Robert George Xuereb

OP1.22 Prognostic indicators and risk estimation of ten-year and twenty-year mortality following acute coronary syndrome
Caroline Jane Magri, Roberto Debono, Neville Calleja, Joseph Galea, Stephen Fava

OP1.23 Red blood cell distribution width & myocardial scar burden in coronary artery disease
Caroline Jane Magri, Tan Xiao Tian, Liberato Camilleri, Robert G. Xuereb, Joseph Galea, Stephen Fava

OP1.24 The role of HIF-1α, VEGF and Obstructive Sleep Apnoea in the Development of Coronary Collateral Circulation
Mark Abela, Andrew Cassar, Graziella Zahra, Philip Dingli, Elton Pllaha, Chris Deguara, Stephen Montefort

OP1.25 Closing the audit cycle: Have cardiovascular risk assessment and management in rheumatoid arthritis patients improved?
Rosalie Magro, Kyra Bartolo, Roberto Corso, Malcolm Buhagiar, Nikita Taliana, Andrew Borg

OP1.26 Estimation of Ejection Fraction by Ventriculography vs Echocardiography: A comparative study
Elton Pllaha, Alexander Manche’, Richard Pullicino
10:15 - 11:30  **Session 1E**  
**Medical Education, Medical Ethics**  

**Chairpersons:** P. Mallia, T. Piscopo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Parallel Session 2**

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

**Chairpersons:** G. Storto, A. Mizzi

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

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

**OP2.03** Adequacy of ultrasound-guided fine needle aspiration (FNA) of thyroid nodules  
*Christine Jo Cannataci, Reuben Grech*
OP2.04 A study of the efficacy of axillary ultrasound in nodal staging in symptomatic breast cancer
Elaine Borg, John Agius, Jessica Muscat, Gordon Caruana Dingli, Salvina Zrinzo, Joseph Debono

OP2.05 Outcomes of endovascular treatment of critical ischaemia in the Maltese population
Ian Said, Adrian Mizzi, Kenneth Saliba, Kevin Cassar

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

Chairpersons: A. Serracino Inglott, M. Zarb Adami

OP2.06 Physician and pharmacist perception on risks associated with potential antibiotic prescribing by pharmacists
Maresca Attard Pizzuto, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian M Azzopardi

OP2.07 Pharmacist prescribing
Abigail Aquilina, Louise Grech, Lilian Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.08 Drug induced effects and hospital admissions
Nicola Farrugia, Lilian Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.09 A cross-sectional analysis of drug-drug interactions retrieved from the medications of patients on presentation at an out-patient hospital pharmacy
Denise Borg, Sara Jo Cassar, Anthony Cutajar

OP2.10 Pharmacist intervention in medication reconciliation during transfer of care
Tresha Emelene Formosa, Lilian M Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott

OP2.11 Association of medicinals to sleep apnoea
Yanica Cassar, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Stephen Montefort, Christopher Deguara, Lilian Azzopardi

OP2.12 Formulary for non-British National Formulary (BNF) cited items
Timothy Scicluna, Lilian Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino Inglott

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

Chairpersons: G. Viegi, S. Montefort

OP2.13 Environmental risk factors for chronic respiratory diseases.
Giovanni Viegi

OP2.14 Impact of school characteristics on children’s respiratory health
Peter Fsadni, Frank Bezzina, Noel Aquilina, Stephen Montefort

OP2.15 An increase in the severity of rhinitis and a reduction in severity of wheezing and eczema in 12- to 15- year old Maltese children over two decades (ISAAC - Malta)
Eleanor Gerada, Hugo Agius Muscat, Liberato Camilleri, Stephen Montefort

OP2.16 Respira project: binary logistic regression model for 9 respiratory questions comparing 2 urban with rural areas in Sicily and Malta
Martin Balzan, Gaspare Drago, Christopher Zammit, Silvia Ruggieri, David Bilocca, Fabio Cibella, Stephen Montefort, Giovanni Viegi

OP2.17 Respira project: the chemical fingerprint of outdoor PM2.5 in Malta
Martin Balzan, Fabio Cibella, Christopher Zammit, David Bilocca, Cinzia Perrino, Silvia Canepari, Stephen Montefort, Giovanni Viegi

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

Chairpersons: C. Abela, M. Buttigieg

OP2.18 Auditing anaesthetic techniques and their complications with a special emphasis on post dural puncture headaches in Central Delivery Suite in Mater Dei Hospital
Laura Vassallo, Josef Zahra, Federica Sant, Christabel Mizzi, Carl Tua, Jessica Sant

OP2.19 Caesarian Section Anaesthesia - Technique and Failure Rate.
Tatyana Farrugia, Federica Sant, Christabel Mizzi, Karen Sapiano, Matthew Bonello

OP2.20 Day case surgeries at Mater Dei Hospital: are criteria being adhered to?
Christabel Mizzi, Matthew Bonello, Daniel Farrugia
OP2.21 Post lower segmental caesarean section pain management and modified early obstetric warning system charting
Christabel Mizzi, Karen Sapiano, Glenn Abela, Daniel Farrugia

OP2.22 Introduction of a ventilator associated pneumonia (VAP) prevention bundle
Anne Marie Camilleri Podesta, Carmel Abela, Michael Borg, Peter Zarb, Patricia O’Brien, Deborah Maria Pace

OP2.23 A comparison of local anaesthetic procedures performed at the Plastic Surgery and Burns Unit of Mater Dei Hospital Malta between 2013 and 2014
Edward Muscat, Matthew Borg, Joseph Briffa, Francis Darmanin

OP2.24 Rate of critical care admission and 30-day mortality post-emergency laparotomy in Malta
Elaine Borg, Maureen Bezzina, Andrew Spina, Michael Buttigieg

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

Chairpersons: P. Schembri Wismayer, C. Pomara

OP2.25 Using an objective morphological analysis to study differentiation induction in acute myeloid leukaemia
Nicola Darmanin, Caroline Camilleri, Jessica Axiak, Sarah Scerri, Stephanie Farrugia, Stephanie Pullicino, Analisse Cassar, Sherif Suleiman, Sonia Patricia Stoica, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.26 To fool a factor: the use of decoy oligonucleotides to target transcription factors involved in hair growth
Elena Farrugia, Maria Grazia Grech, Rebecca Zammit, Francesca Rappa, Francesco Cappello, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.27 Mononucleate cells from psoriatic patients exhibit altered mitochondrial respiratory activity
Rosella Scrima, Claudia Piccoli, Nazzareno Capitanio

OP2.28 Is there a biomechanical cause for spontaneous pneumothorax?
Aaron R Casha, Alexander Manché, Ruben Gatt, Wiktor Wolak, Krzysztof Dudek, Marilyn Casha, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer, Marie-Therese Camilleri-Podesta, Joseph N Grima

OP2.29 Inducing differentiation of HL-60 cells via a nucleoside analog and 3-bromothiophene
Maria Grazia Grech, Marie Adrienne Zerafa Simler, Stefano Corso, Thomas Gatt, Dale Brincat, Rachid Benhida, Nadine Martinet, Lucienne Gatt, Analisse Cassar, Pierre Schembri-Wismayer

OP2.30 A Hypothesis for Reactivation of Pulmonary Tuberculosis: How Thoracic Wall Shape Affects the Epidemiology of Tuberculosis
Aaron Casha, Liberato Camilleri, Alexander Manché, Ruben Gatt, Daphne Attard, Wiktor Wolak, Krzysztof Dudek, Marilyn Gauci, Christopher Giordimaina, Joseph N Grima

OP2.31 Ultrasound investigation of scalp thickness in a study of male pattern baldness
Ayrton Borg, Joanna Thompson, Jessica Axiak, Caroline Camilleri, Andee Agius, Janice Borg, Gillian Pace Moore, Raymond Galea, Jean Calleja Agius, Pierre Schembri Wismayer

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

Chairpersons: C. Gauci, A. Grech

OP2.32 Involuntary care and the new Mental Health Act
John M Cachia

OP2.33 Congenital anomalies contributing to neonatal deaths in Malta
Miriam Gatt, Kathleen England

OP2.34 Self-efficacy, self-care and outcomes in persons with diabetes
Sascha Reiff, Natasha Azzopardi Muscat

OP2.35 An income divide? Monthly household income and prevalence of non-communicable disease
Dorothy Gauci, Neville Calleja

OP2.36 Terrorist attacks and the male to female ratio at birth: the troubles in Northern Ireland, the Rodney King riots and the Breivik and Sandy Hook shootings
Victor Grech
Problematic internet use among young people aged 18 to 30 years in Malta: are we worrying too much?
Anna Maria Vella, Richard Camilleri, Marilyn Clark, Janet Mifsud, Mario Mifsud

Cigarette smoking and patients with severe mental illness
Veronica Said Pullicino1, James Gauci, Kurt Magri Gatt, Rachel Taylor East, Anton Grech

12:45 - 14:00  Lunch
14:00 - 14:45  Plenary II
Chairperson:  Charles Savona Ventura
Prof. Thomas D’Hooghe
14:45 - 15:15  Coffee Break and Exhibition

Parallel Session 3

15:15 - 16:30  Session 3A: Surgery
Chairpersons:  A. Walthaus, C. Cini

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

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

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

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

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

15:15 - 16:30  Session 3B
Diabetes
Chairpersons: S. Fava, M. Cachia

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

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

Diabetes in pregnancy: diagnosis, management, follow up, outcome and complications
Maria Petra Agius, Mark Gruppetta, Josanne Vassallo

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

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

Predictors of diabetic nephropathy
Miriam Giordano Imbroll, Daniele Agius Lauretta, Trevor Tabone, Stephen Fava

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

15:15 - 16:30  Session 3C
Molecular Sciences II
Chairpersons: G. Grech, C. Saliba

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

CIP2A expression is upregulated in triple-negative breast cancer
Shawn Baldacchino, Laura Wastall, Christian Saliba, Thomas A Hughes, Valerie Speirs, Godfrey Grech
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session 3D</th>
<th>Dentistry, Infectious Diseases, Microbiology</th>
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| **OP3.15** Novel molecular classifiers of basal-type subset in breast cancer patients  
*Shawn Baldacchino, Christian Saliba, Jean Paul Ebejer, James DeGaetano, Christian Scerri, Godfrey Grech* | **OP3.23** Effects of steam, ethylene oxide, UV and alcohol sterilization and disinfection techniques on chemical and physical properties of selected dental filling materials  
*Cher Farrugia, Glenn Cassar, Vasilis Valdramidis, Josette Camilleri* |
| **OP3.16** Molecular classifiers of breast cancer patients using multiplex assays  
*Christian Saliba, Shawn Baldacchino, Maria Pia Grixti, Vanessa Petroni, Robert Gauci, James DeGaetano, Anthony Fenech, Christian Scerri, Godfrey Grech* | **OP3.24** Use of levofloxacin and piperacillin-tazobactam for empiric treatment of lower respiratory tract infections in Mater Dei Hospital: are we too trigger-happy?  
*Andrea Falzon Parascandalo, Michael Angelo Borg* |
| **OP3.17** Isolation and characterization of Cancer Stem Cells from Malta patients with breast cancer.  
*Ruth Farrugia, David Pace* |
| **OP3.18** Differential expression of breast cancer signature genes following ramapycin treatment  
*Nina Nestorova, Paul Caruana, Robert Cassar, Rosann Zammit Cassar, Elizabeth Ann Scicluna* |

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

| Chairpersons: P. Sciortino, D. Vella Baldacchino |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| **OP3.20** The local reponse to the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa  
*Charles Mallia Azzopardi, Tonio Piscopo, Claudia Fsdani* | **OP3.27** House visits in general practice: a cross sectional survey  
*Lorna Attard, Jurgen Abela* |
| **OP3.21** Novel tricalcium silicate cements: not just common cements  
*Maria Xuereb, Francois Paul Sorrentino, Denis Damidot, Josette Camilleri* | **OP3.28** Health record documentation by doctors in a primay health care setting; a local audit  
*Adrian Mifsud, Andrea Luca Fenech, Anthony Livori* |
| **OP3.22** A comparison of the microbiological flora in the oral cavity of type II diabetes mellitus *vs* non-diabetic adult dental patients  
*Gabrielle de Gray, Neville Calleja, Christopher Henry Barbara* | **OP3.29** Use of lumbosacral spine radiographs in primary health care centre  
*Sean Francalanza, Giarolonne Pullicino, Paul Sciortino, Philip Sciortino* |
| **OP3.23** Effects of steam, ethylene oxide, UV and alcohol sterilization and disinfection techniques on chemical and physical properties of selected dental filling materials  
*Cher Farrugia, Glenn Cassar, Vasilis Valdramidis, Josette Camilleri* | **OP3.30** Mental health in youth  
*John M Cachia* |
| **OP3.24** Use of levofloxacin and piperacillin-tazobactam for empiric treatment of lower respiratory tract infections in Mater Dei Hospital: are we too trigger-happy?  
*Andrea Falzon Parascandalo, Michael Angelo Borg* | **OP3.31** University of Malta SAHHTEK survey: results from the pilot study  
*Sarah Cuschieri, Fatemah Abdullah, Bader A Ali, Gary Bonnici, Yimeng Zhang, Anthony Cini, Christopher Barbara, Neville Calleja, Josanne Vassallo, Julian Mamo* |

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

| Chairpersons: J. Camilleri, B. Ellul |
|------------|---------------------------------------------|
| **OP3.25** Outcome of Mantoux screening in children in Malta: does BCG vaccination matter?  
*Ruth Farrugia, David Pace* | **OP3.26** Evaluating Fosfomycin as an alternative treatment for infections caused by highly resistant OXA-48 enterobacterial isolates in a Mater Dei hospitalized patients.  
*Nina Nestorova, Paul Caruana, Robert Cassar, Rosann Zammit Cassar, Elizabeth Ann Scicluna* |
| **OP3.27** House visits in general practice: a cross sectional survey  
*Lorna Attard, Jurgen Abela* | **OP3.28** Health record documentation by doctors in a primay health care setting; a local audit  
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*Sean Francalanza, Giarolonne Pullicino, Paul Sciortino, Philip Sciortino* |
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15:15 - 16:30  
**Session 3E**  
Family Medicine, Public Health

| Chairpersons: P. Sciortino, D. Vella Baldacchino |
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*Lorna Attard, Jurgen Abela* | **OP3.28** Health record documentation by doctors in a primay health care setting; a local audit  
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*John M Cachia* | **OP3.31** University of Malta SAHHTEK survey: results from the pilot study  
*Sarah Cuschieri, Fatemah Abdullah, Bader A Ali, Gary Bonnici, Yimeng Zhang, Anthony Cini, Christopher Barbara, Neville Calleja, Josanne Vassallo, Julian Mamo* |
OP3.32 Maternal age at delivery in Malta over the past 15 years
Miriam Gatt, Neville Calleja

OP3.33 It’s not all about time: factors implicated in food choices among Maltese mothers
Elaine Dutton, Lynn B Myers

15:15 - 16:30 Session 3F
Rheumatology, Nephrology
Chairpersons: B. Coleiro, E. Farrugia

OP3.34 Fluid prescription in acute medical admissions
Jonathan Gauci, Stephanie Attard, Kyra Bartolo, Anthea Brincat, Justine Camilleri, Nicholas Paul Delicata, Darlene Muscat, Karen Anne Cassar

OP3.35 Treatment of psoriasis with biologic agents in Malta
Liam Mercieca, Michael J Boffa, Eileen Clark, Lawrence Scerri, Susan Aquilina

OP3.36 Monitoring of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus in local practice
Erika Cefai, Bernard Coleiro, William Camilleri, Edith Sciberras, Andrew Borg

OP3.37 Vaccination rates in adults with autoimmune inflammatory rheumatic diseases and the patients’ perspective on their infection risk
Rosalie Magro, Marilyn Rogers, Franco Camilleri

OP3.38 The outcome of kidney transplantation in anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody associated vasculitis
Jesmar Buttigieg, Dana Kidder, Lorna Henderson

OP3.39 Incidence of end-stage renal disease requiring renal replacement therapy in the Maltese islands
Ian Baldacchino, Sarah Bezzina, Garbiella Balzan, Daniel Debattista, Emanuel Farrugia

OP3.40 Management, referral and outcomes of acute kidney injury
Lara Delicata, Maria Angela Grima, Roberta Callus

16:30 - 18:00 Poster Session 1

P1 Obstetrics
Chairpersons: A. Scerri, J. Thake

P2 Paediatrics
Chairpersons: D. Pace, R. Parascandolo

P3 Cardiology
Chairpersons: A. Cassar, O.Aquilina

P4 Molecular Sciences
Chairpersons: B. Ellul, G. Grech

P5 Surgery
Chairpersons: M. Schembri, C. Cini

P6 Microbiology, Dentistry
Chairpersons: C. Cordina, N. Nestorova

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

Friday, 4th December

09:00 - 09:45 Plenary III
Chairperson: G. Laferla
Translational technology for surgical care
A. Cuschieri

09:45 - 11:00 Session 4C
Infectious Disease, Microbiology
Chairpersons: B. Ellul, C. Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.13 An outbreak of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the MSM (men who have sex with men) population in Malta
Valeska Padovese, Donia Gamoudi, Alexandra Gauci Farrugia, Lawrence Scerri

OP4.14 Analysis of changes in antiretroviral therapy regimens in the cohort of HIV seropositive patients followed up at the infectious diseases clinic
Lisa Micallef Grimaud, Daniela Mallia, Tonio Piscopo, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.15 Analysis of changes in antiretroviral therapy regimens in the cohort of HIV seropositive patients followed up at the infectious diseases clinic
Lisa Micallef Grimaud, Ramon Casha, Daniela Mallia, Tonio Piscopo, Charles Mallia Azzopardi

OP4.16 Adherence to the European association for the study of the liver (EASL) and American association for the study of liver diseases (AASLD) guidelines in the management of hepatitis B
Anette Portelli, Ramon Casha, Tonio Piscopo, Charles Mallia Azzopardi
OP4.17 Prioritizing the need for treatment of chronic hepatitis C patients in a methadone dispensing clinic in Malta.  
Moses Camilleri

OP4.18 Does continuous positive airway pressure influence respiratory infections in patients suffering from obstructive sleep apnoea?  
Kyra Bartolo, Liam Mercieca, Richard Pullicino, Rodianne Abela, Sean Apap Mangion, Julian Cassar, Matthew Zammit, Christine Gatt, Peter Psadni, Stephen Montefort

OP4.19 Trends in meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteraemia, at Mater Dei Hospital, Malta; the importance of root cause analysis to drive improvement strategies.  
Andrea Falzon Parascandalo, Elizabeth Anne Scicluna, Rodianne Abela, Karl Galea, Claire Farrugia, Ermina Tartari Bonnici, Deborah Xuereb, Noel Abela, Simeone Zerafa, Michael Angelo Borg

09:45 - 11:00  Session 4D  
Neurosciences  
Chairpersons:  G. Rizzolatti, G. Digiovanni

OP4.20 Acute ischemic injury of astrocytes  
Robert Fern, Mario Valentino, Sarah Elwood

OP4.21 Pathogenesis of psychiatric disorders: role of redox dysregulation  
Luigia Trabace, Stefania Schiavone

OP4.22 Detection and analysis of real-time behavioural sequences of social interaction in rats  
Maurizio Casarubbea, Fabiana Faulisi, Aurora Cudia, Dario Cancemi, Maurizio Cardaci, Magnus S Magnusson, Filippo Caternicchia, Arcangelo Benigno, Giuseppe Di Giovanni, Giuseppe Crescimanno

OP4.23 In vivo imaging and monitoring astrocytes in health and disease  
Mario Valentino, Robert Zammit, Christian Zammit, Jasmine Vella, Richard Muscat

OP4.24 Modelling spinal muscular atrophy in Drosophila: a fruitful approach?  
Ruben J. Cauchi

OP4.25 Implication of inwardly-rectifying K channels in the pathogenesis of autism  
Maria Cristina D’Adamo, Elena Ambrosini, Federico Sicca, Filippo Maria Santorelli, Mauro Pessia

OP4.26 Specific or synergistic effects of deep brain stimulation of subthalamic nucleus and L-dopa on TMS-evoked cortical reactivity in Parkinson’s disease patients  
Alessandro Stefani, Giacomo Koch

09:45 - 11:00  Session 4E  
Orthopaedics  
Chairpersons:  R. Gatt, T. Azzopardi

OP4.27 Pre-operative intravenous fluid hydration in elective total knee and total hip replacement patients and the effects on peri-operative complications  
Alexia Farrugia, Maximilian Mifsud, Massimo Abela

OP4.28 Hip fracture mortality among osteoporotic patients  
Sarah Cuschieri, Stephen Grech, Ray Gatt

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

OP4.30 Delirium and its management in hip fracture patients  
Joanna Grech, Caroline Galdes, John Cordina

OP4.31 Mortality following hip fracture in Malta  
Yimeng Zhang, Sandra Distefano, Neville Calleja, Kathleen England

OP4.32 Biochemical predictors of low bone mineral density and fracture susceptibility in Maltese postmenopausal women  
Melissa Marie Formosa, Angela Xuereb-Anastasi

09:45 - 11:00  Session 4F  
Molecular Sciences III  
Chairpersons:  A. Xuereb, R. Formosa

OP4.33 Aspirin impairs the carnitine shuttle pathway in redox-compromised yeast cells: implications for cancer chemoprevention and Reye’s syndrome  
OP4.34 Probing the structure and tumour-suppressor properties of manganese superoxide dismutase
Rosalin Bonetta, Gary James Hunter, Anthony Fenech, Chi Trinh, Therese Hunter

OP4.35 The interferon regulatory factor 5-RelA interaction targets inflammatory genes in macrophages
David George Saliba, Irina A Udalova, Hayley L Eames

OP4.36 Amiloride induces alternative splicing of the PP2Ac mRNA in haematopoietic cell lines
Stephanie Gauci, Christian Saliba, Shawn Baldacchino, Anthony Fenech, Godfrey Grech

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

OP4.38 Serum amyloid A in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Anne Marie Bonello, Anabel Sciriha, Stephen Lungaro-Mifsud, Stephen Montefort, Bridget Ellul, Godfrey Grech, Anthony G Fenech

OP4.39 Dichloroacetate induces morpho-functional alterations and selective degradation of mitochondria in cells from oral squamous cell carcinomas
Vitalba Ruggieri, Francesca Agriesti, Tiziana Tataranni, Carmela Mazzoccoli, Claudia Piccoli

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break and Exhibition

Parallel Session 5

11:30 - 12:45 Session 5A Gynaecology

Chairpersons: A. Cameron, C. Savona Ventura

OP5.01 Assessing clinical quality in maternity care
Alan D Cameron

OP5.02 A retrospective observational study of the causes and treatment of recurrent early pregnancy loss
Heidi Gauci Grech, Mark Formosa

OP5.03 Awareness of the human papillomavirus (HPV) and HPV vaccines
Bettina von Brockdorff, Lilian M Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino Inglott

OP5.04 The role of cytokines in cutaneous aging during menopause
Marika Borg, Jean Calleja-Agius

OP5.05 Serum cytokines in Maltese women with miscarriage
Christina Xerri, Edith Said, Jean Calleja-Agius

11:30 - 12:45 Session 5B Respiratory

Chairpersons: G. Cremona, M. Balzan

OP5.06 COPD as a multisystem condition
George Cremona

OP5.07 Predictors of inhaler technique in asthma and COPD
Kyra Bartolo, Michael Pace Bardon, Emma Louise Schembri, Simon Mifsud, Darlene Muscat, Rachelle Asciak, Michael Sullivan, Stephen Montefort, Martin Balzan

OP5.08 An audit on the effect of a hospital oxygen therapy guideline on prescription and administration of oxygen therapy
Rachelle Asciak, Maria Ciantar, Julia Tua, Caroline Gouder, Valerie Anne Fenech, Stephen Montefort

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

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

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

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

Chairpersons: J. Farrugia Agius, K. Cassar

OP5.12...
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<th>Incidence of dialysis-requiring acute kidney injury in the Maltese islands</th>
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**Session 5D**

**Chairpersons:** S. Laspina, A. Gatt

**Session 5E**

**Pharmacology**

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

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

11:30 - 12:45 Session 5F Surgery

Chairpersons: G. LaFerla, J. Etienne Abela

OP5.32 Red cell transfusion: Is one better than two?
Denise Borg Aquilina, Dorianne Attard, Alicia Dimech, Nathan Mark Edwards, Gabriel Galea, Daphne Gatt, Rosanne Scerri, Stefan Laspina

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

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

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

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

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

12:45 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 14:45 Plenary IV

Chairperson: R. Xuereb

Percutaneous treatment of aortic stenosis: current state and future directions
S. Chetcuti

14:45 - 15:15 Coffee Break and Exhibition

Parallel Session 6

15:15 - 16:30 Session 6A Psychiatry

Chairpersons: S. Zammit, D. Cassar

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chairpersons: F. Wirth, M. Attard Pizzuto

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

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

OP6.08 Waste management in pharmaceutical processes
Shirley Tabone, Anthony Serracino Inglott, Lilian Azzopardi
OP6.09 Factors affecting the concentration of ciprofloxacin in ischaemic tissue
Janis Vella, Maria Vella, Kevin Cassar, Lilian M Azzopardi, Anthony Serracino-Inglott, Godfrey LaFerla

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

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

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

15:15 - 16:30 Session 6C
Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery
Chairpersons: J. Galea, A. Borg

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15:15 - 16:30 Session 6D
Medical Education
Chairpersons: R. Galea, I. Curran

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

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

Andee Agius, Neville Calleja, Christian Zammit, Richard Pullicino, Christian Camenzuli, Roberta Sultana, Jean Calleja Agius, Cristoforo Pomara

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

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

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

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

15:15 - 16:30 Session 6E
Neurology, Medicine
Chairpersons: M. Mallia, M. Vella

OP6.27 Assessing frailty and anaesthetic risk in the older patient
Christine Debattista, Neville Aquilina, Peter Ferry
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OP6.28</th>
<th>The use of enoxaparin in medical admissions to prevent hospital-acquired venous thromboembolism (VTE)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas Paul Delicata, Justine Camilleri, Jonathan Gauci, Darlene Muscat, Anthea Brincat, Stephanie Attard, Kyra Bartolo, Robert Camilleri, Karen Anne Cassar</td>
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<th>OP6.29</th>
<th>An audit on testosterone therapy in adult males with androgen deficiency.</th>
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<td>Josephine Bigeni, Mark Gruppetta, Yanica Vella, Matthew Zammit, Clayton Micallef, Maria Mifsud, Josanne Vassallo</td>
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<th>OP6.30</th>
<th>Detailed epidemiology and radiological geometric assessment of pituitary macroadenomas: a population based study</th>
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<th>OP6.31</th>
<th>A local study on patient knowledge on the use of botulinum toxin in neurological disorders</th>
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<td>James Gauci, Maria Alessandra Zammit, Darren Sillato, Beatrice Farrugia, Maria Mallia</td>
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<th>OP6.32</th>
<th>An audit of respiratory assessment and non-invasive ventilation management in motor neurone disease</th>
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<td>Jonathan P Mamo</td>
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<th>OP6.33</th>
<th>Male infertility at the male urology infertility clinic, Mater Dei Hospital Malta</th>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Anne Zammit, Gregory Philip Apap Bologna, Andrew John Mercieca, Jean Calleja-Agius</td>
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<th>OP6.34</th>
<th>Thyroid aspiration cytology: a three year correlation study with histopathology</th>
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<td>Roderick Busuttil, Jonathan Galea, Mario Taliana, James DeGaetano, Alexandra Betts</td>
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<th>OP6.35</th>
<th>Personalized medicine: KRAS genotyping of colorectal adenocarcinomas in Malta</th>
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<td>Jeannes Scerri, Malcolm Buhagiar, Maria Mifsud, Dorianne Buttigieg, Allison Cordina, Catherine Grima, Stephen Brincat, Claude Magri, James DeGaetano, Christian Scerri</td>
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<th>OP6.36</th>
<th>Cost comparison of oral capecitabine versus intravenous 5-fluorouracil/folinic acid in cancer based treatment</th>
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<td>Lorna Marie West, Alison Brincat, Joseph Nicholas Sciberras, Rachel A. Micallef</td>
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<th>Cost implications of current dose rounding in high cost parenteral anti-cancer treatment and potential cost savings with a 5% dose rounding</th>
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<th>OP6.38</th>
<th>Uptake of unhealthy habits among Maltese grown-up congenital heart disease patients</th>
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<th>Assessing the quality and completeness of request forms in the histopathology department</th>
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<th>OP6.40</th>
<th>The efficacy of lymph node fine needle aspiration cytology</th>
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16:30 - 18:00  **Poster Session 2**

P7  **Gynaecology**  
**Chairpersons:** M. Formosa, J. Mamo

P8  **Gastrointestinal medicine**  
**Chairpersons:** J. Pocock, J. Gerada

P9  **Pharmacy**  
**Chairpersons:** L.Grech, J.Vella

P10  **Endocrinology & Diabetes**  
**Chairpersons:** M. Gruppetta, S. Vella

P11  **Surgery, Anaesthesia, Orthopaedics**  
**Chairpersons:** P. Zammit, S. Sciberras

P12  **Medicine**  
**Chairpersons:** P. Ellul, M. Vella

**Reviews and Case Reports:** P.065 - P.130
Saturday, 5th December

08:00 Registration

09:00 - 9:45 Plenary V
Chairperson: B. Ellul
Tissue and cell therapy: what is their future?
G. Galea

Parallel Session 7

09:45 - 11:00 Session 7A
Respiratory Medicine and Rehabilitation
Chairpersons: S. Singh, J. Micallef

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

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

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

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

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

09:45 - 11:00 Session 7B
Public Health
Chairpersons: M. McKee, J. Mamo

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

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

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

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

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

09:45 - 11:00 Session 7C
Nephrology, Urology
Chairpersons: E. Farrugia, J. Sciberras

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

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

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

OP7.14 A re-audit of the management of acute infective admissions to Mater Dei Urology Unit
Tiziana Pirotta, Karen Sapiano, Gerald Busuttil
OP7.15 Nephrolithiasis, stone composition, meteorological conditions and seasons. Is there any connection? Jesmar Buttigieg, Stephanie Attard, Ruth Galea, Alex Carachi

OP7.16 Adverse events following intravesical Bacillus Calmette-Guérin therapy in Mater Dei Hospital, Malta Gerald Busuttil, Luke Zammit, Christine Debattista

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

09:45 - 11:00 Session 7D Obstetrics
Chairpersons: R. Galea, Y. Muscat Baron

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

09:45 - 11:00 Session 7E Neurology, Neurosciences
Chairpersons: J.A. Aquilina, R. Muscat

OP7.25 Pathophysiological mechanisms of absence seizures Vincenzo Crunelli

OP7.26 A critical role for serotonin 2A (5-HT2A) and 2C (5-HT2C) receptors in modulating experimental absence seizures Giuseppe Di Giovanni

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

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

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

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

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

09:45 - 11:00 Session 7F Plastic Surgery, Breast Cancer Surgery
Chairpersons: F. Darmanin, G. Caruana Dingli

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

OP7.33 Timeframes in the management of new case breast cancer patients undergoing surgery with intention to treat in Malta in 2014: a retrospective analysis Daniela Magri, Joseph Debono, Gordon Caruana Dingli, Danika Marmara’
OP7.34 Pre-operative axillary ultrasound staging in breast cancer surgery
Keith Sacco,
Kirsten Schembri, Shawn Baldacchino, Elaine Borg, John Agius, Joseph Debono

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

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

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

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

11:30 - 12:15  Plenary VI
Chairpersons: R. Muscat, G. Di Giovanni
The Mirror mechanism: the neural basis and clinical applications
G. Rizzolatti

12:15 - 13:45  Poster Session 3
P13 Respiratory Medicine and Infectious Disease
Chairpersons: B. Caruana Montaldo, C. Fsadni

P14 Geriatrics, General Medicine
Chairpersons: A. Fiorini, A. Borg

P15 Psychiatry, Public Health
Chairpersons: D. Cassar, C. Gauci

P16 Pharmacology
Chairpersons: A.G. Fenech, L. West

P17 Imaging
Chairpersons: A. Samuel, A. Gatt

P18 Haematology, Oncology
Chairpersons: D.J. Camilleri, C. Magri

P19 Neurosciences
Chairpersons: G. Rizzolatti, V. Crunelli

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

13:45 - 14:00  Closing Ceremony