10th MALTA MEDICAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE
Westin Dragonara Resort, St Julian's

Detailed Scientific Programme
https://goo.gl/6FUBaC
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 Scieneces
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 coronary 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 neoplasm 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 Grixti, 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  
*Micheala 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 Micllef, 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

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?

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 Asciak, Maged Fayed Hassan, 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

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, Ritienne 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:**  *Agnes 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 Micalef, 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 erythematous 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) - it's 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 erythematous: 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 Scerrì, 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
Graciella 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*
Practice patterns for the management of concomitant gallstones and choledocholithiasis
Ylenia Abdilla

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

The influence of roflumilast combinatory treatment on molecular targets related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
Francesca Camilleri, Anthony Fenech, Vanessa Petroni Magri

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

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

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

Safety and diagnostic accuracy of CT-guided lung biopsies in Malta
Gabriel Galea, Iyad Mohamad Almobaied, Nathan Edwards, Adrian Mizzi

Development and testing of the RiBridge artificial rib
Aaron R Casha, Philip Farrugia, Quinton Calleja, Daniel Micallef

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, Jeannes 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, Marthiese 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 Collict, 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-Blaire 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, Christpher Barbara, Anthony Serracino-Inglott*

**OP7.218**  Pharmaceutical care problems across 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**  
**Chairpersons:**  *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-HT2C 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 Pejkic, 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 Pejkic

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 Vanheur, 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 Micaleff, Clarissa-Marie Zehliche, 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 aivorac-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*