



# FIRST MALTESE MEDICAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE

*15 - 16 December 1989*

SUNCREST HOTEL - QAWRA



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University of Malta  
Medical School



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## ***Foreword***

Two years ago, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery established a Postgraduate Committee as part of its commitment to postgraduate education. Its brief was to organise a Continuing Medical Education programme. As a first step in encouraging further professional training it was decided to organise medical symposia on a regular basis. Besides, a medical journal, the Maltese Medical Journal, again started being published. This is serving as an excellent forum where local researchers may publish some of their work. At its very first meeting, the Postgraduate Committee decided to hold a Medical School Conference in the latter part of 1989. It is hoped that this Conference will serve as a forum for the discussion and evaluation of advances in Medicine. It will hopefully assist the local practitioner in his day to day practice and keep him abreast of modern developments.

The Conference has been purposely planned to be multi-disciplinary in nature in order to involve as wide a spectrum as possible of medical specialities. The contributors are all Maltese graduates practising either locally or abroad. There are quite a number of Maltese doctors who have reached high academic and professional positions abroad and it was felt that the local profession could benefit from their experience and expertise. Moreover we want them to feel that, even though they are abroad, they are still an integral part of our Medical School. I welcome them back to their Alma Mater. This Conference should provide an excellent opportunity for the coming together of members of the Medical Profession. We plan to hold such conferences every three years and hopefully these will develop into regional meetings attracting doctors from the whole Mediterranean basin.

***Professor F.F. Fenech***  
*Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.*

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## *Malta's Medical School*

Malta's medical traditions may be documented at least as far back as the times of Roman domination. It appears, that throughout the Middle Ages, local governmental authorities — the Università, saw to it that competent medical care was available at the island's main hospital, Santo Spirito. Doctors, often Jews, were appointed from neighbouring Sicily but also from other parts of Italy and Spain to work alongside Maltese medical practitioners trained in institutions overseas. With the coming of the knights Hospitallers of St. John early in the sixteenth century these medical traditions were further developed and strengthened. An increasing number of Maltese doctors sought training at the medical schools of Salerno, Florence, Leyden and Montpellier.

Following the plague epidemic of 1675 it was felt by Grandmaster Nicola Cotoner that the time was ripe to formalize medical teaching at the Order's hospital in Valletta. The year 1676 saw Fra Dr Giuseppe Zammit being appointed as the first 'lettore' in Anatomy and Surgery. Zammit was a priest-physician, who besides enjoying a great reputation as a doctor, was also a chaplain of the Order in the Langue of Aragon. Many consider these modest beginnings as being the origin of our medical school.

Our medical school became better organised throughout the eighteenth century with teaching attaining a very high level. A 'Collegio Medico' was formally set up on the 25th May 1771 as part of the newly founded University of Studies. With the abolishment of the University by Napoleon on the 18th June 1798 medical studies came to an abrupt halt. Fortunately this interruption was a brief one for within a few weeks of the French leaving Malta, in 1800, Sir Alexander Ball refounded the University. However medical teaching took a little longer to be formally organised and it was not until 1825 when the statutes were drawn up for the "Collegium Medicum".

During the following two centuries our medical school underwent a number of reforms. Both the standard of teaching as well as the curriculum were brought in line with those obtainable in British medical schools. Throughout its existence our medical school continued to train doctors who not only catered for the medical needs of the island but also made a name for themselves beyond these shores.

# FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER 1989

## *Venue: Poseidon Room*

Day 1	Session 1	Room 1
0830	<b>Registration</b>	
0915	<b>All seated</b>	
0930	Opening remarks by <b>Professor F.F. Fenech</b> <i>Chairman</i>	
0935	Opening Speech by <b>The President of Malta, Dr. Censu Tabone</b>	
0945	Break	
Topic:	<b>THERAPEUTICS</b>	
Chairmen:	<b>Professor G.M. Aber</b> <b>Professor J.V. Zammit Maempel</b>	
1000	<i>Chemotherapy in the control of tropical disease</i> <b>H.M. Gilles</b>	
→ 1020	<i>Postmenopausal bone loss: prevention and replacement</i> <b>M. Brincat</b>	
1040	<i>BCG in the treatment of bladder carcinoma</i> <b>A. Busuttil</b>	
1100	<i>Osseointegration in clinical dentistry</i> <b>G. Zarb</b>	
	Coffee Break and Exhibits	



1530 *Alterations in management of the undescended testicle*  
**A. Bianchi**

Coffee Break

**Day 1**

**Session 4**

**Room 1**

Topic: **CARDIOLOGY**

Chairmen: **Professor J. Richmond**  
**Professor F.F. Fenech**

1605 *Sick sinus syndrome*  
**J. Degiovanni**

1625 *Interventional cardiology*  
**A. Fenech**

1645 *A comparison of streptokinase and tissue plasminogen activator in acute myocardial infarction*  
**J. Muscat Baron**

→ 1705 *Cardiovascular risk factors among the Maltese population*  
**J.M. Cacciottolo**

1725 *Cardiovascular diseases: screening and presentation*  
**A. Borg**

End of session





Day 2

Session 4

Room 1

Topic: MISCELLANEOUS

Chairman: **Professor J. Anderson**  
**Professor H.M. Gilles**

1550 *Antibodies, blood clots and babies*  
**C. Mallia**

1610 *Drug induced pemphigus: a dermatological curiosity or essential knowledge for the practising clinician?*  
**J.L. Pace**

1630 *Soft tissue Sarcomas in Malta*  
**S. Brincat**

1650 *The fascinating saga of kuru and the increasing importance of its implications in modern medicine*  
**L.A. Vassallo**

1710 *Destruction of plague-infested ships by burning as a sanitary measure in 18th century Malta.*  
**P. Cassar**

End of session

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# SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER 1989

## Venue: Athena Room

Day 2

Session 1

Room 2

→ Topic: **OBSTETRICS**

Chairmen: **Mr. J.B. Lawson**  
**Dr. E.A. Agius**

0900 *Pre-induction cervical ripening*  
**J. Mamo**

0920 *Induction of labour: a comparison of PGE<sub>2</sub> gel with PGE<sub>2</sub> pessaries*  
**L.J. Sant Cassia (et al)**

0940 *Computerisation in obstetrics*  
**C. Savona Ventura**  
**E. Grech**

1000 *Role of medical audit in general practice*  
**M. Agius**

Coffee Break and Exhibitions

Day 2

Session 2

Room 2

Topic: **MISCELLANEOUS**

Chairmen: **Professor A. Busuttil**  
**Professor A. Galea**

1040 *Endovesical adriamycin for superficial bladder tumours*  
**G. Caruana Dingli**  
**C.L. Cutajar**

1100 *Benzodiazepine dependence - A review*  
**D. Cassar**

1120 *MRI in musculoskeletal disease*  
**V. Cassar Pullicino**

Lunch Break

**Day 2**

**Session 3**

**Room 2**

→ **Topic: PAEDIATRICS**

*Chairman:* **Professor A. Cuschieri (Malta)**  
**Dr. E. Turner**

1405 *Neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis*  
**P. Soler, D. Soler**  
**D. Azzopardi**

1425 *Autism of the asperger type associated with an autosomal fragile site*  
**J. Saliba**  
**M. Griffiths**

1445 *Gangliosidosis in Malta*  
**H.M. Lenicker**

1510 *Role of paediatrics: A sociological point of view*  
**S. Portelli**

Coffee Break

Day 2

Session 4

Room 2

Topic: MISCELLANEOUS

Chairmen: **Dr. F.X. Micallef**  
**Dr. J.L. Grech**

1550 *Hb-Valletta and Hb F-Malta-I are in linkage in the Maltese population*  
**A.E. Felice (et al)**

1610 *Spinocerebellar degeneration*  
**L. Agius**

1630 *Monitoring in anaesthesia*  
**G. Boffa**

1650 *Protein complex of unusual appearance and behaviour in a subgroup of patients with demyelinating neuropathy*  
**I. Lolin**

Closing remarks and drinks.

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## Poster Exhibition

1. *Trial of Metoclopramide Hydrochloride in the management of postoperative nausea and vomiting following Narcotic use during general anaesthesia.*  
**Azzopardi N. Padovani A.**
2. *Radioisotopes in Malta.*  
**Brincat S.**
3. *Cleft Lip and Palate – a 7 year review.*  
**Calleja R. Swain C.**
4. *Inborn error of tryptophan metabolism resulting in pellagra like skin rash, colitis and neurological manifestations.*  
**Calvagna V.**
5. *Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography: indications and results in 22 patients.*  
**Caruana Galizia A.**
6. *Hydranencephaly: a fatal neonatal condition that is easily missed.*  
**Mifsud A. Bailery M. Aquilina S.**
7. **Muscat V.**  
*Classic Kaposi Sarcoma: report on 2 patients.*
8. *Pseudo-ainhum*  
**Gatt P. Pace J.L.**
9. *The clinical spectrum of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis.*  
**Pace J.L.**
10. *Visceral leishmaniasis as a concomitant infection in AIDS.*  
**Galea Debono A. Pace J.L. Cilia Vincenti A.**
11. *Recurrence of visceral leishmaniasis in children.*  
**Azzopardi D. Parascandolo R.**
12. *Hyponatraemia following transurethral resection of the prostate.*  
**Agius A. Cutajar C.F.**
13. *Facilities of treating burns in Malta.*  
**Darmanin FX. Swain C.**

14. *Surgical presentation of brucellosis.*  
**Grech J.L.**
15. *Two uncommon cases of fungal infection.*  
**Grech J.L.**
16. *Contrast media reactions in the radiology department.*  
**Zammit A.**
17. *Molecular basis of non-alpha Thalassaemias.*  
**Mamo D.**
19. *Distribution and function of intracellular calcium and magnesium activated adenosine triphosphatases.*  
**Cushcieri A.**
20. *Arsenic and malignancy.*  
**Pace J.L. Micallef M.**
21. *Intralesional Interferon alpha - 2b in the treatment of overt and occult lesion caused by HPV infection.*  
**Sant Cassia J.L.**
22. *Future trends for Epidemiology in Malta.*  
**Mamo J. Cacciattolo J.**

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# **SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

## **FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER**

Reception: Hosted by the Rector University of Malta for all conference participants

Venue: Museum of Fine Arts — South Street, Valletta.

Time: 8.30 p.m.

Dress: Lounge

## **SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER**

Banquet: Hosted by the Chairman and members of the organising committee.

Venue: Casino Maltese — Republic Street, Valletta.

Time: 8.30 for 9.00 p.m.

Dress: Black Tie.

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