



# AISF

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LO STUDIO DEL FEGATO

(Associazione riconosciuta con D.M. del 7.5.1998, G.U. del 20.6.1998)

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and 6<sup>th</sup> Pre-Meeting Course of the Italian Association for the Study of the Liver (A.I.S.F.)

**Rome, 18-20 February 2004**

(Aula Magna, Università degli Studi di Roma "La Sapienza")

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

### Wednesday, February 18

#### 6<sup>th</sup> A.I.S.F. PRE-MEETING COURSE

#### "INFECTIONS AND SEPSIS AS CAUSES OF LIVER DECOMPENSATION IN CIRRHOSIS: DIAGNOSIS AND ADVANCED THERAPY"

Course Directors: A. MANGIA, S. Giovanni Rotondo and A. MARZANO, Turin

09.30-10.45 **Registration and entry questionnaire**

10.45-11.00 **Course Presentation**  
A. MANGIA, S. Giovanni Rotondo  
A. MARZANO, Turin

#### I Session

##### Epidemiology and clinical presentation

Chairpersons: R. NACCARATO, Padua – F. ORLANDI, Ancona

11.00-11.20 Bacterial and micotic causes of sepsis in cirrhosis  
F. SALERNO, Milan  
11.20-11.40 Viral reactivation  
A. MANGIA, S. Giovanni Rotondo  
11.40-12.00 Discussion

#### II Session

##### Physiopathology of sepsis

Chairpersons: G. IDÉO, Milan - G. LAFFI, Florence

12.00-12.20 Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS) in sepsis  
D. TORRE, Varese  
12.20-12.40 Haemodynamic changes in cirrhosis  
J. BOSCH, Barcelona  
12.40-13.00 Effects on portal hypertension and bleeding  
R. DE FRANCHIS, Milan  
13.00-13.30 Discussion  
13.30-14.30 **Lunch**  
14.30-15.00 **Special lecture**  
Chairperson: M. STRAZZABOSCO, Bergamo  
**Therapeutical approaches to bacterial and micotic infection in liver cirrhosis**  
G.B. GAETA, Naples

#### III Session

##### Therapy of sepsis and multiorgan failure in liver cirrhosis: hepatology meets intensive care medicine

Chairpersons: A. GATTA, Padua - M. RIZZETTO, Turin

15.00-15.15 Introduction. When hepatology meets intensive care?  
A. MARZANO, Turin  
15.15-15.45 Metabolic therapy and nutrition  
G. IAPICHINO, Milan  
M. MERLI, Rome  
15.45-16.05 Discussion  
16.05-16.35 Pulmonary support and Selective Digestive Decontamination (SDD)  
M. LANGER, Pavia  
M. LAGGET, Turin  
16.35-16.55 Discussion  
17.00-17.20 **Break**  
17.20-18.00 Emodinamic therapy and kidney support  
R. FUMAGALLI, Bergamo  
P. ANGELI, Padua  
18.00-18.30 Discussion  
18.30-19.00 **Special Lecture**  
Chairperson: M. STRAZZABOSCO, Bergamo  
**Role of plasma expansion in the treatment of cirrhotic decompensation**  
M. BERNARDI, Bologna  
19.00-19.10 **Exit questionnaire**  
19.10-19.25 **General Assembly**



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## 37<sup>th</sup> A.I.S.F. Annual Meeting

Rome, 19-20 February 2004

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

#### Thursday, February 19

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| <p>8.30-10.00 <b>Oral Communications</b><br/>Chairpersons: D. CONTE, <i>Milan</i><br/>F. MARRA, <i>Florence</i></p> <p>8.30-8.45 Natural history of chronic liver disease (CLD) assessed by a 10 year follow-up in the Dionysos cohort<br/>S. BELLENTANI, F. MASUTTI, L. MIGLIOLI, L.S. CROCÈ, G. BEDOGNI, A. CASTIGLIONE, C. TIRIBELLI - <i>Modena, Trieste</i></p> <p>8.45-9.00 Pentoxifylline prevents small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO), bacterial translocation (BT) and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) in experimental cirrhosis<br/>F. CORRADI, J. FERNÁNDEZ, M. NAVASA, J. VILA, J. RODES - <i>Barcelona (Spain)</i></p> <p>9.00-9.15 Circulating Squamous Cell Carcinoma antigen-IgM complexes as novel biomarkers for hepatocellular carcinoma<br/>L. BENEDEUCE, F. CASTALDI, M. MARINO, S. QUARTA, M. RUVOLETTI, P. PONTISSO, G. FASSINA - <i>Pozzuoli, Padua</i></p> <p>9.15-9.30 Temporal relationship between systemic and splanchnic vasodilatation, NOS activity and ascites formation in cirrhotic rats<br/>C. CUGINI, P. ANGELI, G. FERNANDEZ-VARO, V. DALLA-LIBERA, S. FASOLATO, V. ARROYO, A. STICCA, A. GATTA, W. JIMÉNEZ - <i>Padua, Barcelona (Spain)</i></p> <p>9.30-9.45 Angiotensin II type 1 receptor inhibition in early stage cirrhotic patients: effects on portal pressure and liver fibrosis<br/>S. MARTINI, C. ALESSANDRIA, W. DEBERNARDI VENON, A. MARZANO, F. BIASI, N. LEONE, C. BARLETTI, L. TODROS, G. POLI, G. SARACCO, M. RIZZETTO - <i>Turin</i></p> <p>9.45-10.00 Endogenous opioids inhibit cholangiocyte proliferation in the BDL but not in the normal rat<br/>M. MARZONI, G. ALPINI, S. SACCOMANNO, L. TROZZI, S. GLASER, G. MACARRI, A. BENEDETTI - <i>Ancona, Rome, Temple (USA)</i></p> | <p>10.00-10.30 <b>Break and Posters view</b></p> <p>10.30-11.00 <b>Special Lecture: The A.I.S.F. Guidelines on Liver Transplantation</b><br/>Chairpersons: M. STRAZZABOSCO, <i>Bergamo</i><br/>A. NANNI COSTA, <i>Roma</i><br/>B. GRIDELLI, <i>Palermo</i><br/>M. ANGELICO, <i>Rome</i></p> <p>11.00-12.00 <b>General Assembly II</b></p> <p>12.00-13.30 <b>Oral Communications</b><br/>Chairpersons: F. BONINO, <i>Pisa-Milan</i><br/>A. MANGIA, <i>S. Giovanni Rotondo</i></p> <p>12.00-12.15 Lack of evidence of sexual transmission of hepatitis C among monogamous couples: results of a ten-year prospective follow-up study<br/>C. VANDELLI, F. RENZO, L. ROMANÒ, S. TISMINETZKY, M. DE PALMA, T. STROFFOLINI, E. VENTURA, A. ZANETTI - <i>Modena/Reggio Emilia, Milan, Trieste, Rome</i></p> <p>12.15-12.30 Association of hepatitis C virus envelope proteins with exosomes<br/>P. PILERI, F. MASCIOPINTO, C. GIOVANI, S. CAMPAGNOLI, L. GALLI-STAMPINO, P. COLOMBATTO, M. BRUNETTO, T.S. BENEDICT YEN, M. HOUGHTON, S. ABRIGNANI - <i>Siena, Pisa, San Francisco (USA)</i></p> <p>12.30-12.45 HCV genotype 2 and 3 can be cured by PEG-IFN<math>\alpha</math>2b and RBV for 12 wks: a randomized controlled study<br/>A. MANGIA, N. MINERVA, GL. RICCI, M. ROMANO, V. CARRETTA, M. PERSICO, D. BACCA, F. SPIRITO, F. VINELLI, M. ANNESE, G. SCOTTO, A. GIANGASPERO, A. ANDRIULLI - <i>S. Giovanni Rotondo, Foggia, Canosa, Venosa, Policoro, Casarano, Bari, Rome, Naples</i></p> <p>12.45-13.00 Intra-hepatic mRNA levels for IFNs and related genes in HCV/HIV co-infected patients<br/>I. ABBATE, G. CAPPIELLO, S. ROSATI, G. TOCCI, G. ANTONUCCI, M. SOLMONE, R. LONGO, A. SPANÒ, MR. CAPOBIANCHI - <i>Rome</i></p> |
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(Associazione riconosciuta con D.M. del 7.5.1998, G.U. del 20.6.1998)

- 13.00-13.15 Occurrence of infections during combination treatment with interferons and ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C: role of neutropenia and of interferon pegylation  
MG ANTONINI, M PUOTI, S BABUDIERI, I MAIDA, L FENU, B ZANINI, V PUTZOLU, S ROSSI, S ZALTRON, C BAIGUERA, K PRESTINI, P PAGANI, L BIASI, S SASSU, G CAROSI, MS MURA - *Brescia, Sassari*
- 13.15-13.30 Prevalence and significance of insulin resistance in patients with NAFLD or chronic hepatitis C  
LE ADINOLFI, P LORIA, A LONARDO, P PILLA, L RESTIVO, E DURANTE MANGONI, N CARULLI, G RUGGIERO - *Naples, Modena/Reggio Emilia*
- 13.30-14.00 **Lunch and Posters view**
- 14.00-14.30 **Poster discussion**  
Viral Section: P. FARCI, *Cagliari*  
Clinical Section: P. ALMASIO, *Palermo*
- 14.30-15.15 **State-of-the-Art Lecture**  
Evolving concepts in pathogenesis and clinical management of hepatocellular carcinoma  
M. COLOMBO, *Milan*
- 15.15-15.45 **2001-2002 Fellowships Report**  
Chairperson: G. RAIMONDO, *Messina*
- 15.15-15.30 Effect of cariporide, a selective Na<sup>+</sup>/H<sup>+</sup> exchange inhibitor, on experimental liver fibrosis  
C. CANDELARESI, *Ancona*
- 15.30-15.45 Hemopoietic stem cells: hepatic transdifferentiation and characterization in liver injury  
E. LOGGI, *Bologna*
- 15.45-16.15 **Break and poster view**
- 16.15-17.45 **Oral Communications**  
Chairpersons: A. BENEDETTI, *Ancona*  
M. LEVRERO, *Rome*
- 16.15-16.30 Estrogen administration protects from bile duct vanishing induced by biliary-digestive diversion in the BDL rat  
M MARZIONI, G SVEGLIATI BARONI, R GHISELLI, D ALVARO, F MOCCHEGIANI, S SACCOMANNO, V SISTI, L UGLI, F ORLANDO, V SABA, G ALPINI, G MACARRI, A BENEDETTI - *Ancona, Rome, Temple (USA)*
- 16.30-16.45 Insulin like growth factor 1(IGF-1) and estrogens modulate neoplastic cell growth in human cholangiocarcinoma  
D ALVARO, B BARBARO, A FRANCHITTO, P ONORI, L MARUCCI, M MARZIONI, V DRUDI METALLI, A AUGELLO, V CARDINALE, AF ATTILI, A BENEDETTI, E GAUDIO - *Rome, Ancona*
- 16.45-17.00 Expression and regulation of adenylyl cyclase isoforms (ACs) in normal and cholestratic rat cholangiocytes  
S MELERO, G ALPINI, C SPIRÌ, R FIOROTTO, S GLASER, H FRANCIS, M STRAZZABOSCO - *Padua, Bergamo, Temple (USA)*
- 17.00-17.15 Class III and class I histone deacetylases (HDACs) inhibitors cooperate with DNA damaging chemotherapeutic drugs to induce p73-dependent apoptotic pathways in HCC cells  
S VOSSIO, E PESCANDOLO, N PEDICONI, F MORETTI, C BALSANO, M LEVRERO - *Rome, L'Aquila, Cagliari*
- 17.15-17.30 Prognostic value of autoantibodies against proteins of nuclear pore complexes (anti-NPCs) in early primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC)  
P INVERNIZZI, J WESIERSKA-GADEK, PM BATTEZZATI, S OERTELT, P BUSATTO, A BENETTI, E PENNER, E HITCHMAN, M PODDA - *Milan, Vienna (Austria)*
- 17.30-17.45 Natural history of gallstone disease: expectant management or active treatment? Results from a population-based cohort study (the Multicenter Italian Study of Cholelithiasis, MICOL)  
D FESTI, A COLECCHIA, E RODA, AF ATTILI, P LORIA, N CARULLI, S CAPODICASA, F ROMANO - *Bologna, Rome, Modena, Chieti*
- Friday, February 20**
- 8.30-9.45 **Oral Communications**  
Chairpersons: L. BOLONDI, *Bologna*  
A. MARZANO, *Turin*
- 8.30-8.45 Expression of adiponectin receptors by human hepatic stellate cells modulates the profibrogenic actions of platelet-derived growth factor  
C BERTOLANI, S GELMINI, I PETRAI, S ALEFFI, C ORLANDO, F MARRA - *Florence*
- 8.45-9.00 An italian multicenter experience with liver transplantation from donors aged 80 years old and over  
R MONTALTI, B NARDO, P CARACENI, M MASETTI, L URBANI, P BELTEMPO, R BERTELLI, L PUVIANI, M BERNARDI, F FILIPPONI, A PINNA, A CAVALLARI - *Bologna, Modena, Pisa*
- 9.00-9.15 A significant proportion of myofibroblasts are of bone marrow origin in human liver fibrosis  
FP RUSSO, MR ALISON, P BURRA, M RUGGE, NA WRIGHT, SJ FORBES - *London (UK), Padua*



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- 9.15-9.30 Bacterial cell-wall derived products induce a pro-inflammatory and pro-fibrogenetic phenotype in murine hepatic stellate cells  
P BRUN, I CASTAGLIUOLO, M PINZANI, G PALÙ, D MARTINES - *Padua, Florence*
- 9.30-9.45 Long-term immunogenicity and efficacy assessment of anti-hepatitis B virus (HBV) vaccination in Italian children  
T STROFFOLINI, A MARIANO, A MELE, L ROMANÒ, ME TOSTI, F MARZOLINI, R COPPOLA, M CUCCIA, R MANGIONE, F NEGRONE, A PARLATO, M QUARTO, P RAGNI, E ZAMPARO, C ZOTTI, A ZANETTI - *Rome, Milan, Cagliari, Catania, Licata, Potenza, Naples, Bari, Pordenone, Turin*
- 09.45-10.30 **The HCV/HIV coinfection: a new clinical challenge in hepatology**  
*Chairpersons:* A. CRAXÌ, *Palermo*  
F. PICCININO, *Naples*
- Hepatotoxicity in HIV patients receiving HAART: definition, prevention and management  
R. BRUNO, *Pavia*
- HCV and HIV coinfection: natural history and therapy  
M. PUOTI, *Brescia*
- Discussion
- 10.30-11.00 **Break and Poster view**
- 11.00-11.45 **State-of-the-Art Lecture**  
Clinical Presentation and laboratory diagnosis of mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation disorders: present status and future directions  
P. RINALDO, *Rochester (USA)*
- 11.45-13.00 **2<sup>nd</sup> A.I.S.F./SIGEP Mini-Symposium Autoimmune Liver Diseases in Children and Adults**  
*Chairpersons:* C. BARBERA, *Turin*  
F.B. BIANCHI, *Bologna*
- Autoimmune Hepatitis  
R. IORIO, *Naples*
- Autoimmune Bile Duct Disorders  
G. MIELI VERGANI, *London*
- Treatment Strategies in Childhood  
G. MAGGIORE, *Pisa*
- Treatment Strategies in adults  
G. ACTIS, *Turin*
- Discussion
- 13.00-13.45 **Lunch and Poster view**
- 13.45-14.45 **General Assembly III**
- 14.45-15.15 **Poster discussion**  
Liver Transplantation: P. CARACENI, *Bologna*  
Basic Science: D. ALVARO, *Rome*
- 15.15-15.30 **Presentation of the A.I.S.F./FADE prize for the best Italian paper in 2002**  
*Presenter:* A. PIETRANGELO, *Modena*  
**"Updated definitions of healthy ranges for serum alanine aminotransferase levels"**  
PRATI D, TAIOLI E, ZANELLA A, DELLA TORRE E, BUTELLI S, DEL VECCHIO E, VIANELLO L, ZANUSO F, MOZZI F, MILANI S, CONTE D, COLOMBO M, SIRCHIA G.  
*Ann Intern Med. 2002 Jul 2;137(1):1-10*
- 15.30-15.45 **Presentation of the A.I.S.F. distinguished service award to Prof. Luigi Pagliaro**  
*Presenter:* M. STRAZZABOSCO, *Bergamo*
- 15.45-17.15 **Oral Communications**  
*Chairpersons:* A.F. ATTILI, *Rome*  
V. DI MARCO, *Palermo*
- 15.45-16.00 Allelic variants of the apolipoprotein e gene and fibrosis progression of recurrent hepatitis C  
P TONIUTTO, C FABRIS, A PERIN, E FUMO, L APOLLONIO, M CALDATO, L MARIUZZI, R MINISINI, M PIRISI - *Udine, Novara*
- 16.00-16.15 The HBV transcription/replication process is regulated by the recruitment of a HBx/PCAF complex on the HBV cccDNA minichromosome  
T POLLICINO, L BELLONI, F DE NICOLA, G RAFFA, G SQUADRITO, M FANCIULLI, G RAIMONDO, M LEVRERO - *Messina, Rome*
- 16.15-16.30 The long-term outcome of HBeAg-negative patients with cirrhosis treated with lamivudine monotherapy: a 5-year prospective cohort study  
P LAMPERTICO, M VIGANÒ, M IAVARONE, G LUNGHI, R ROMEO, G COLUCCI, A MORABITO, E DEL NINNO, M COLOMBO - *Milan, Rotkreuz (Switzerland)*
- 16.30-16.45 Role of HBV-DNA load in determining HBV recurrence after liver transplantation and the choice of mono or combined prophylactic therapy  
S GAIA, A MARZANO, S CARENZI, A PREMOLI, V GHISETTI, M FADDA, M SALIZZONI, M RIZZETTO - *Turin*
- 16.45-17.00 No HBV recurrence in YMDD mutants transplanted pts using pre-emptive lamivudine followed by combination prophylaxis  
R ROMEO, L CACCAMO, LS BELLI, M VANGELI, G ROSSI, AB ALBERTI, G PINZELLO, LR FASSATI, M COLOMBO - *Milan*



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17.00-17.15 HBV genomes from liver tissue of patients with occult HBV infection show wide range of sequence divergence and normally replicate *in vitro*  
T POLLICINO, G RAFFA, L COSTANTINO, C SAITTA, G SQUADRITO, M LEVRERO, G RAIMONDO - *Messina*

17.15-17.30 **Young Investigators Awards**  
*Presenters:* M. GUIDO, *Padua*  
M. PERSICO, *Naples*

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## Poster Session

**N° 1** *In vitro* and *in vivo* combined suicide and immunomodulating gene therapy of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) with retroviral vector  
AL STEFANI, L BARZON, I CASTAGLIUOLO, M GUIDO, G PALÙ, F FARINATI - *Padua*

**N° 2** Hypercholesterolaemia is not associated with increased carotid-artery intima and media thickness in primary biliary cirrhosis.  
M ALLOCCA, A CROSIGNANI, PM BATTEZZATI, A GRITTI, M PODDA - *Milan*

**N° 3** MRP2 is upregulated by UDCA in cholestasis of pregnancy  
F AZZAROLI, V FELETTI, C MAZZEO, P SIMONI, S GIOVANELLI, A MIRACOLO, G NIGRO, F LODATO, A RODA, E RODA, G MAZZELLA - *Bologna*

**N° 4** Increased expression of renal neutral endopeptidase (EC 3.4.24.11) in rats with CCL<sub>4</sub>-induced cirrhosis with ascites: acute effects of its pharmacological inhibition with i.v. Candoxatrilat  
G SANSOÈ, M ARAGNO, R MASTROCOLA, F RESTIVO, S SILVANO, G MENGOZZI, A SMEDILE, F ROSINA, O DANNI, M RIZZETTO - *Turin*

**N° 5** Role of decompensated cirrhosis and Color-Doppler/Endoscopic ultrasonography in portal vein thrombosis  
S MARTINI, P SCHINCO, C DE ANGELIS, P CARUCCI, F BRUNELLO, L TODROS, W DEBERNARDI-VENON, A MARZANO, M RIZZETTO - *Turin*

**N° 6** The role of intrafamilial transmission of HCV  
E Minola, V Baldo, T Baldovin, A Floreani - *Bergamo, Padua*

**N° 7** HCV core protein induces a p63-dependent apoptosis after chemical damage, in B-lymphocytes.  
A ALISI, C GIANNINI, A SPAZIANI, S TAVOLARO, AL ZIGNEGO, C BALSANO - *L'Aquila, Rome, Florence*

**N° 8** Comparison of simple noninvasive models as predictors of cirrhosis in chronic hepatitis C  
M CAZZANIGA, R CERIANI, G BORRONI, C FELLINE, MA TOMMASINI - *Lecco, Abbiategrasso, Rozzano*

**N° 9** Expression of squamous cell carcinoma antigen in hepatocellular carcinoma and its precursors.  
M GUIDO, M FASSAN, P PONTISSO, SN THUNG, F CALABRESE, F FARINATI, S FAGIUOLI, U CILLO, C LANZA, M RUGGE - *Padua*

**N° 10** Activation of pivotal cell cycle proteins and inhibition of apoptosis by SCCA1 in HEPG2 cells  
S QUARTA, MG RUVOLETTI, L VIDALINO, N TONO, M MARINO, L BENEDEUCE, A GATTA, G FASSINA, P PONTISSO - *Padua, Pozzuoli (Naples)*

**N° 11** Tumor doubling time is a preoperative predictor of recurrence after resection of HCC on cirrhosis  
A CUCCHETTI, M VIVARELLI, F PISCAGLIA, G LA BARBA, L BOLONDI, R BELLUSCI, A CAVALLARI - *Bologna*

**N° 12** The etiological pattern of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) in Italy is changing  
V DI MARCO, P PARISI, S ALIZZI, G ALAIMO, L SANDONATO, S PARDO, D CABIBBI, PL ALMASIO, A LICATA, C CAMMÀ, MA LATTERI, A CRAXÌ - *Palermo*

**N° 13** Preliminary results of treatment with Pegylated Interferon  $\alpha$ -2b (PEG-IFN  $\alpha$ -2b) and Ribavirin (Rb) in recurrent hepatitis C after liver transplantation.  
S SAETONE, B LAVEZZO, A FRANCHELLO, A SMEDILE, D COCCHIS, E DAVID, V GHISETTI, A OTTOBRELLI, M TORRANI, M SALIZZONI, M RIZZETTO - *Turin*

**N° 14** Preharvest donor arterial hyperoxia protects from initial poor graft function after liver transplantation by increasing total protein liver concentration  
S GINANNI CORRADINI, R DE MARCO, M SICILIANO, F LIGUORI, R PRETAGOSTINI, M IAPPELLI, G NOVELLI, F PUGLIESE, F RUBERTO, F NUDO, A BUSSOTTI, M MERLI, AF ATILI, P BERLOCO, M ROSSI - *Rome*





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- N° 15** Outcome of liver transplant for alcoholic liver disease.  
S LORENZINI, M BISELLI, A GRAMENZI, M DEL GAUDIO, M RAVAIOLI, F BOLLINO, F PORZIO, C CURSARO, GL GRAZI, M BERNARDI, P ANDREONE - *Bologna*
- N° 16** Genetic variation at the angiotensin-converting enzyme gene locus and post-transplant obesity  
P TONIUTTO, R MINISINI, S D'ALFONSO, E FUMO, F CAPELLI, L APOLLONIO, M CALDATO, R RAPETTI, S FANGAZIO, M BULFONE, A PERIN, M PIRISI - *Udine, Novara*
- N° 17** Prevalence and etiologic factors of chronic liver diseases in the general population in Southern Italy  
GM PENDINO, A MARIANO, P SURACE, CA CASERTA, T STROFFOLINI, R COTICHINI, MT FIORILLO, A AMANTE, S BRUNO, C MANGANO, I POLITO, F AMATO, A.C.E. GROUP, A MELE - *Reggio Calabria, Rome, Messina*
- N° 18** Flow cytometry characterization of stem cells in liver biopsy specimens  
L PORRETTI, R GRAMIGNOLI, R LOPA, A AMBROSONE, S GATTI, M SCALAMOGNA, A COLLI, F BONINO, D PRATI - *Milan, Lecco*
- N° 19** Differential expression of two isoforms of the chemokine receptor CXCR3 determines the ultimate effect of IP-10 on the survival of human hepatic stellate cells (HSC)  
I PETRAI, A BONACCHI, P ROMAGNANI, M PAROLA, B MAZZINGHI, M ROTONDI, P FAILLI, S ALEFFI, C BERTOLANI, E NOVO, E ZAMARA, M PINZANI, G LAFFI, P GENTILINI, F MARRA - *Florence, Turin*
- N° 20** Peripheral neuropathy is induced by immune-mediated mechanisms in chronic hepatitis C: lack of a direct neurotoxic effect of HCV.  
G SVEGLIATI-BARONI, F LOGULLO, F MARINI, M CANDELA, T BOUSHERAL, G MACARRI, A BENEDETTI - *Ancona*
- N° 21** NFkB activation via tyrosine phosphorylation of Ikb- $\alpha$  results in the selective modulation of the NF-KB transcriptome and activation of progenitor cells markers.  
F MORETTI, E PESCANDOLO, C SERRA, S VOSSIO, A COSTANZO, M LEVRERO - *Rome, L'Aquila, Cagliari*
- N° 22** Hepatic chimerism in patients with gender-mismatch liver transplantation  
S GAIA, S CAPPIA, E BACILLO, E GAIA, A SMEDILE, A MARZANO, A OLIVERO, ML ABATE, L GUBETTA, M RIZZETTO - *Turin, Orbassano*
- N° 23** Minimal hepatic encephalopathy (MHE) in cirrhotic patients: neuropsychological and neurophysiological evaluation  
M SENZOLO, P AMODIO, MC D'ALOISO, S FAGIULI, F DEL PICCOLO, P BURRA - *Padua*
- N° 24** Familial Hypobetalipoproteinemia in liver steatosis  
LS CROCÈ, S LANCELLOTTI, E DI LEO, P TARUGI, L VISINTIN, L CATTIN, C TIRIBELLI - *Trieste, Modena*
- N° 25** Tryptophan/kynurenine pathway changes in HCV-infected patients: possible involvement in associated neuropsychiatry pathology  
A COZZI, D BALDI, C CURRADI, T BIAGIOTTI, A ALDINUCCI, M MONTI, C GIANNINI, M ROSSELLI, E CHIARANTINI, G LAFFI, F MORONI, AL ZIGNEGO - *Florence*
- N° 26** Percutaneous radiofrequency thermal ablation (RFTA) of small hepatocellular carcinoma: a prospective study.  
C CAMMÀ, V DI MARCO, P PARISI, L SANDONATO, A ORLANDO, R VIRDONE, N NICOLI, A CASARIL, D CABIBBI, S PARDO, S ALIZZI, D DI BONA, G MONTALTO, MA LATTERI, A CRAXÌ - *Palermo*
- N° 27** Genetic heterogeneity of hepatitis C virus in HBV/HCV co-infection  
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- N° 28** Human stem cells can regenerate and transdifferentiate in a immunocompetent rat model of fulminant hepatitis  
AC PISCAGLIA, C DI CAMPLI, M NESTOLA, MA ZOCCO, S RUTELLA, G BONANNO, A MARIOTTI, G ZANNONI, FM VECCHIO, P POLA, G LEONE, G GASBARRINI, A GASBARRINI - *Rome*
- N° 29** Interferon-ribavirin is an efficacious and safe therapy for patients with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) and anti- liver kidney microsome type 1 autoantibodies (LKM-1).  
V MONTI, A AGHEMO, MG RUMI, MF DONATO, E BROGNOLI, ML PARRAVICINI, E AROSIO, E DEL NINNO, M COLOMBO - *Milan*
- N° 30** Prognostic value of a single hepatic venous pressure gradient measurement in cirrhotic patients  
FM FABRIS, A DELL'ERA, R DE FRANCHIS, F SALERNO, A SANGIOVANNI, G BORRONI, S VISINTIN, A NICOLINI, G MEREGAGLIA, F IANNUZZI, M PRIMIGNANI - *Milan*
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E NOVO, F MARRA, E ZAMARA, L VALFRÈ, I PETRAI, A BONACCHI, S COLOMBATTO, M PINZANI, M PAROLA - *Turin, Florence*
- N° 32** Characterization of focal liver lesions with Contrast Tune Imaging: a prospective study vs spiral TC, MRI and US-guided FNB  
I DE SIO, B PALMENTIERI, A FEDERICO, A COZZOLINO, M PERSICO, R TORELLA, C DEL VECCHIO-BLANCO, L CASTELLANO - *Naples*



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(Associazione riconosciuta con D.M. del 7.5.1998, G.U. del 20.6.1998)

- N° 33** Peginterferon alfa-2b (PEG-alfa2b-PEG-INTRON) plus ribavirin (RBV-REBETOL) for initial treatment of chronic hepatitis C (CHC) virus-related mixed cryoglobulinemia (MC): a multicentric pilot study  
C MAZZARO, GP DI GENNARO, C DONADA, U TIRELLI, A TELLAN, L VIRGOLINI, G POZZATO - Pordenone, Gorizia, Trieste, Aviano
- N° 34** Eligibility for therapy among chronic HCV – infected patients in a primary referral center  
L FRAMARIN, G TAPPERO, M AYOUBI, E SOLERIO, F ROSINA  
- Turin