





FONDAZIONE  
INTERNAZIONALE  
MENARINI

*Focus on Rare Diseases*

# **Myeloproliferative and Myelodysplastic Syndromes**

**Bergamo (Italy), September 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**

Organized by

OSPEDALI RIUNITI BERGAMO

ISTITUTO MARIO NEGRI

FONDAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE MENARINI

## **FINAL PROGRAM**

Sala Piatti – Città Alta  
(Via San Salvatore, 6)

Aula Alabastro, Congress Center Papa Giovanni XXIII  
(Viale Papa Giovanni XXIII, 106)



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Rare diseases have recently been the objective of a great deal of studies aimed at elucidating pathways and individuating effective, possibly targeted therapies.

The meeting on Ph negative Myeloproliferative and Myelodysplastic Syndromes will cover aspects of these disorders from the bench to the bed.

In 1951, Dameshek recognised the close interrelation between Polycythemia Vera (PV), Essential Thrombocythaemia (ET), and Idiopathic Myelofibrosis (IMF) and coined the term “Myeloproliferative Disorders” (MPDs). These conditions were regarded as the result of the uncontrolled proliferation of one or more bone marrow lineage, triggered by unknown stimuli, which in some cases could also lead to myeloid metaplasia of the spleen.

Milestones in the history of MPDs were, in the 1970s, the recognition of the cellular independence from growth factors as a critical mechanism for the disease, and second, the identification of the stem cell nature and clonal origin of PV and ET. From 1980s onwards, new insights in the molecular pathogenesis have been increasingly achieved and have peaked in the last decade. Particularly, in 2005, an acquired single point mutation in the gene of the cytoplasmic tyrosine kinase JAK2 has been simultaneously described in MPD by five different groups. Subsequent studies have focused on the frequency of this mutation and its correlation with the clinical phenotype. On the basis of these recent developments, a revision of the current WHO diagnostic criteria has been proposed.

Other scientific achievements of the last decade include the results of randomised clinical trials carried out in Europe in patients with MPD. As a consequence of these studies, therapy has been optimised and today PV and ET patients are stratified according to their vascular risk and to new prognostic factors, including JAK2 burden and leukocytosis. Studies of IMF are less impressive. However, the efficacy of haematopoietic stem cell transplantation is being currently explored in this disorder by well designed controlled clinical trials.

Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) encompass a spectrum of haematopoietic stem cell malignancies, but specific defects responsible for these diseases remain unknown. With the advent of new discoveries of the pathobiology of these disorders, new drugs have been developed, particularly for patients with specific cytogenetic abnormalities. In the recent years, a place for bone marrow transplantation in high risk and young patients with MDS has been defined.

The haematologists from the Haematology/Oncology Department of the Ospedali Riuniti Bergamo, Italy, have long been involved in both clinical and basic research in MPDs, providing original contributions to the advances in the management of these disorders and the related thrombotic complications. It is therefore a great honour to host in the city of Bergamo this International symposium on ‘**Myeloproliferative and Myelodysplastic Syndromes**’. The most distinguished scientists in the field are invited to talk and will focus on the most recent clinical advances and new mechanisms for these diseases. Ample space for the discussion and for sharing ideas with experts of undoubted experience is allowed during the meeting. A round table to discuss on the new WHO criteria for the diagnosis of MPDs will outline the future direction in the field.

It is our hope that this meeting will provide a favourable atmosphere to debate hot issues between scientists and will represent a valuable opportunity to generate new ideas and start future collaborations.

Tiziano Barbui and Giuseppe Remuzzi  
Co-Presidents of the Meeting

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## **Co-Presidents of the Meeting**

### **Tiziano Barbui**

Dipartimento di Oncologia  
ed Ematologia  
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### **Giuseppe Remuzzi**

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### **Scientific Secretariat**

#### **Anna Falanga**

Hematology Division  
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### **Organizing Secretariat**

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Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – h. 18.00  
Sala Piatti – Città Alta

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Opening ceremony

18.00        **Welcome address**

18.30        *Plenary Lecture: R.T. Silver* (New York, USA)  
Focus in Polycythemia Vera: From the Polycythemia Vera  
Study Group studies to JAK2 Mutation

Welcome party

**Session I - Pathogenesis**

Chairman: **P.M. Mannucci** (Milan, I)

08.30 **R.C. Skoda** (Basel, CH)  
Molecular advances in MPDs

09.00 **A.R. Green** (Cambridge, UK)  
Molecular pathogenesis and management of the MPDs

09.30 **A.M. Vannucchi** (Florence, I)  
Genotype and clinical phenotypes

10.00 Coffee break

**Session II – New WHO diagnostic criteria: presentation and panel discussion**

Chairman: **T. Barbui** (Bergamo, I)

10.15 **T. Barbui** (Bergamo, I)  
**J. Thiele** (Cologne, D)  
New WHO criteria

**G. Barosi** (Pavia, I), **G. Birgegård** (Uppsala, S),  
**F. Cervantes** (Barcelona, E), **H. Gisslinger** (Vienna, A),  
**L. Gugliotta** (Reggio Emilia, I), **L.M. Larocca** (Rome, I),  
**J.J. Michiels** (Antwerp, B), **J.T. Reilly** (Sheffield, UK)  
Discussion

**Session III - Prognosis**

Chairman: **J. Brière** (Paris, F)

12.15 **R. Marchioli** (Chieti, I)  
Risk factors and outcome in MPDs: difficulties for risk stratification

12.45 **C. Harrison** (London, UK)  
Conventional and new criteria in ET and PV

13.15 **F. Cervantes** (Barcelona, E)  
Conventional and new prognostic factors in primary myelofibrosis

13.45 Lunch

**Session IV - Management**

- Chairmen: **J.J. Michiels** (Antwerp, B)  
**E.M. Pogliani** (Monza – Milan, I)
- 14.45 **R. Landolfi** (Rome, I)  
Major thrombosis
- 15.15 **G. Barosi** (Pavia, I)  
Splanchnic thrombosis
- 15.45 **F. Rodeghiero** (Vicenza, I)  
Hemorrhage
- 16.15 **V. De Stefano** (Rome, I)  
Recurrent thrombohemorrhagic events
- 16.45 **M. Griesshammer** (Ulm, D)  
Pregnancy CMPD
- 17.15 Coffee Break

**Session V - New biomarkers**

- Chairman: **F. Passamonti** (Pavia, I)
- 17.30 **H.L. Pahl** (Freiburg, D)  
Biomarkers in MPD excluding JAK2
- 18.00 **A. Falanga** (Bergamo, I)  
Leukocytes and thrombosis



**Session VI – Myelodysplastic syndromes**

- Chairman: **M. Cazzola** (Pavia, I)
- 08.30 **L. Malcovati** (Pavia, I)  
Risk assessment in myelodysplastic syndromes
- 09.00 **C. Gardin** (Paris, F)  
Hypomethylating agents and HDAC inhibitors in MDS
- 09.30 **M. Cazzola** (Pavia, I)  
Lenalidomide treatment of the myelodysplastic syndromes  
with chromosome 5q deletion
- 10.00 **P. Muus** (Nijmegen, NL)  
Which MDS patients are candidates for transplantation?
- 10.30 Coffee Break

**Session VII – New drugs in MPDs**

- Chairmen: **A. Grossi** (Florence, I)  
**A. Rambaldi** (Bergamo, I)
- 10.45 **J.J. Kiladjian** (Paris, F)  
Interferon Alpha in Polycythemia Vera
- 11.15 **G. Birgegård** (Uppsala, S)  
Anagrelide
- 11.45 **S.N. Constantinescu** (Brussels, B)  
Jak2 inhibitors
- 12.15 **G. Finazzi** (Bergamo, I)  
Current guidelines in clinical practice
- 12.45 Conclusion of the meeting
- 13.00 Lunch

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Meeting venues**

The venues for the Meeting will be:

- September 20<sup>th</sup>, “Sala Piatti”  
(Via San Salvatore, 6 - I-24129 Bergamo Città Alta, Italy)
  - September 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, “Aula Alabastro”, Congress Center Papa Giovanni XXIII  
(Viale Papa Giovanni XXIII, 106 - I-24121 Bergamo, Italy)
- Phone: +39 035 236435

### **Secretariat during the Meeting**

The Secretariat will be open at the following times:

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 08.00 a.m. to 07.00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 08.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.

### **Official language**

The official language of the Meeting will be English.

### **CME Credits**

The meeting earned n°8 credits from the Italian Health Authorities for Physicians.

### **Technical facilities**

Facilities will be available for computer presentations and overhead projections. A business center with PC (Powerpoint for Windows) will be available for check and preview of presentations. It is essential that speakers take their CD to the business center at least one hour before the session starts.

The center will be open at the following times:

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 08.00 a.m. to 07.00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 08.00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.

### **Lunches and coffee breaks**

Lunches and coffee breaks will be served in the Meeting area.

### **Abstracts book**

Participants will receive the Abstract book at the Meeting.

# LIST OF CHAIRMEN, SPEAKERS, CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE MEETING AND SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

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