



Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders Day (OPMDay)

“Towards precision oral medicine and pathology”

Piazza Santa Chiara, 9,

University of Foggia, Foggia, Italy

June 4th-5th

DAY 1 – 4 June 2026 – INTERCEPTOR Day		
	Topic	Who
9:00 – 9:45	Registration and check-in	
9:45 - 10:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Institutional greetings & objectives of the day</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opening session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Welcome message from Prof. Vito Carlo Alberto Caponio, and Gennaro Musella, Local Organization Committee ❖ Prof. Pierre Saintigny and Prof. Senada Koljenović, Chair and Co-Chair of INTERCEPTOR Cost Action ❖ Prof. Lorenzo Lo Muzio, Rector of the University of Foggia, and President of the National College of University Professors in Dentistry ❖ Prof. Mauro Piacentini, Scientific Director of Fondazione Heal Italia ❖ Prof. Nicola Cirillo, Scientific Lead – SCALPEL <p>National and local representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prof. Umberto Romeo, President of the Italian Society of Oral Medicine and Pathology ❖ Martina Zagaria, Local President of the Italian Association of Dental Students 	
10:30 - 10:50	**coffee break**	
10:50 - 12:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Past, present and future: Different Stakeholders, One Objective</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Moderators: Prof. Vito Carlo Alberto Caponio – Prof. Lorenzo Lo Muzio – Prof. Nicola Cirillo, University of Foggia – SCALPEL</i></p>	



<p>15 minutes for each Guest with 5 minutes of questions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost Action summary – 4 years project where we got summary and perspectives 2. Heal ITALIA: Liquid biopsy in head and neck cancer patients: blood, saliva or both? 3. Molecules at a crosstalk between immunology and invasion in OPMDs University of Foggia 4. SCALPEL: Artificial intelligence in OPMD and early cancer diagnosis: translating innovation into clinical decision support <p>10 minutes closing remarks and summary of this session (or set a panel of two people as moderator)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 10:50 – 11:10: Dr. Marine Benaissa, Prof. Pierre Saintigny (FR), and Prof. Senada Koljenović (BE) 2. 11:10 – 11:30: HEAL ITALIA – Prof. Giuseppe Blandino, IRCCS Regina Elena National Cancer Institute, Rome (IT) 3. 11:30 – 11:50 : Prof. Giuseppe Pannone, University of Foggia (IT) 4. 11:50 – 12:10: SCALPEL – Prof. Nicola Cirillo, University of Foggia (IT)
12:30 -14:00	**Lunch break on site**	
14:00 -14:50	<p>Working Group plenary session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarize past initiatives - Discuss the next steps and activities - Sustainable actions 	<p>Sequentially: WGs 1, 2 (20') WGs 3, 4, 5 (20') WG 6, 7 (10') WG leaders presenting progress of the groups</p>
15:00 - 16:00	Oral communication 1 - 6 short talks (10') Moderators: Prof. Danica Vidović Juras, University of Zagreb Prof. Vladimir Pavićević, Clinical Center of Montenegro	
16:00 -16:20	**coffee break**	
16:20 -17:20	Oral communication 2 - 6 short talks (10') Moderators: Dr. Mirza Markišić, Clinical Center of Montenegro Prof. Fabio Luis, Barretos Cancer Hospital	
17:20 -18:30	Management Committee – Core group meeting with a focus on sustainability and future perspectives	



DAY 2 – 5th June 2026 – OPMDay

Topic		
09:00 -10:00	Venue and Registration	
10:00-10:40	Biomarkers and biological mechanisms <i>Moderators: Prof. Bojan Poposki, Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje Prof. Susanna Chiocca, European Institute of Oncology Prof. Ramon Garcia-Escudero, CIEMAT</i>	
10:00 - 10:20	Keynote 1: Understanding oral carcinogenesis at single cell spatial resolution	Prof. Aiman Ali, and Marco Magalhaes University of Toronto (CA)
10:20 - 10:35	Fibroblasts in oral leukoplakia: do they have any role in disease progression?	Prof. Dipak Sapkota, University of Oslo (NO)
10:35-10:40	Concluding remarks – Q&A	
10:40 - 11:00	**coffee break**	
11:00-12:00	Clinical and Pathological Diagnosis <i>Moderators: Prof. Senada Koljenović, University of Antwerp Prof. Daniela Elena Costea, University of Bergen, Prof. Merva Soluk Tekkesin, Ankara University</i>	
11:00-11:20	Keynote 2: Oral Premalignant Epithelial Tumorigenesis: heterogeneity and progression potential	Prof. Adel El-Naggar, M.D. Anderson (USA)
11:20-11:35	The Who, Where, and When to biopsy; 10 years of research on OPMD's	Prof. Michael McCullough, University of Melbourne, Australia (AU)
11:35-11:50	Development of a Core Outcome Set for Oral Leukoplakia Interventional Trials	Prof. Sven Niklander, University of Chile (CL)
11:50-12:00	Concluding remarks – Q&A	
12:00-12:15	Patient voices <i>Moderators: Gennaro Musella, University of Foggia Angela Tisci, University of Foggia</i>	
12:15 - 14:00	**lunch break not on site**	
14:00-15:00	Disease care management <i>Moderators: Prof. Giuseppe Troiano, University LUM Prof. Bengu Yaldiz Cobanoğlu, Karadeniz Technical University Prof. Andrea Ballini, Link Campus University</i>	
14:00 - 14:20	Keynote 3: Secondary and tertiary prevention of OPMD: from early diagnosis to clinical management	Prof. Umberto Romeo, Sapienza University of Rome (IT)
14:20 - 14:35	Patient priorities and advocacy: a different perspective	Antonella Cardone, CEO Cancer Patients Europe
14:35-14:45	Concluding remarks – Q&A	
14:45-15:00	**coffee break**	
15:00-16:30	OPMDBoard , Prof. Senada Koljenović – Prof. Merva Soluk Tekkesin – Prof. Vito Carlo Alberto Caponio	
16:30-17:00	Oral communication award - wrap-up and closing remarks	



Location & Venue

Address: Piazza Santa Chiara, 9, Foggia, Italy

Contact the Organization Committee in Foggia:

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Angela Tisci – angela.tisci@unifg.it; +39 392 618 5099

Remote participation to the event

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/397069491856641?p=sKtUQ5N8WUXnDBqpCN>

General Information

OPMDAY ANNUAL CONGRESS

How to reach: Look for flights to land in Bari or Foggia airport.

Bari is located more or less 1h and half from Foggia. Once you land in Bari, you can opt to take a

1. local train, from Bari Airport to Bari Centrale (Central Station) and then, from Bari Centrale to Foggia.
2. There's a direct bus to Foggia. <https://metaurobus.it/aeroporti> (12 euros more or less on board; due to expected high number of travelers, it is suggested to buy in advance). The bus stop is located just outside Bari Airport Arrival. This trip takes 1h and half.

Foggia Airport is connected via Milan or Turin. Once you land in Foggia, there is a local bus driving passengers to the city center (1 euro ticket on board, via app mooneygo). This trip takes 10 minutes.



SUGGESTED ACCOMODATIONS

NAME	ADDRESS	DISTANCE FROM SANTA CHIARA AUDITORIUM	LINK
Outside Boutique	Via della Repubblica, 38	950 m	https://www.outsidehotel.it/
Hotel Up	Via Trieste, 14	900 m	https://spahotelup.it/
Palazzo Sant'Elena	Via della Rocca, 4	900 m	https://www.palazzosantelena.it/
L'Etoile	Via Tugini, 36	1,0 km	https://bbletoile.it/
Muro Torto	Corso Cairoli, 5	600 m	https://www.murotortosuite.it/
Mamacos (Foggia Centro)	Vicolo Teatro, 9	400 m	https://mamacostays.com/
Boutique Teatro	Vicolo Teatro, 3	400 m	https://www.airbnb.it/rooms/1544940752814665201?source_impression_id=p3_1777296763_P3ToXbZQDRCE8_Gn



SCIENTIFIC BOARD

Rui Amaral Mendes	<p>Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto - MEDCIDS - Department of Community Medicine, Information and Health Decision Sciences</p> <p>Researcher at CINTESIS@RISE, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto (Clinical and Translational Research in Oncology) Adjunct Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic. Sciences, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH, USA</p>
Paolo Bossi	<p>Professor at Humanitas University and Humanitas Cancer center, Italy</p>
Marine Benaïssa	<p>Science Communication Coordinator & INTERCEPTOR Project Manager, Department of Translational Medicine, Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon 69008, France</p>
Antonella Cardone	<p>CEO of Cancer Patients Europe, the pan-European and all-cancer types patient association, Belgium</p>
Daniela Elena Costea	<p>Professor, Gade Laboratory for Pathology, Department of Clinical Medicine and Centre for Cancer Biomarkers CCBio, Haukeland University Hospital, University of Bergen, Norway</p>
Susanna Chiocca	<p>Director, Viruses and Cancer Unit, Department of Experimental Oncology, IEO, European Institute of Oncology IRCCS, Milan, Italy.</p>
Moshe Elkabets	<p>Professor at Ben-Gurion University. Research focus on development & therapy of head and neck cancer. Drug resistance, tumor microenvironment and immunity, Israel.</p>
Haly Holmes	<p>Periodontist at University of the Western Cape. University of the Western Cape. City of Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa</p>
Keith Hunter	<p>Professor of Head and Neck Pathology, Liverpool Head and Neck Centre, Molecular and Clinical Cancer Medicine, University of Liverpool, United-Kingdom</p>
Senada Koljenović	<p>Professor and Head of Department of Pathology, Antwerp University Hospital/ University of Antwerp, Belgium</p>
Zisis Kozlakidis	<p>Head of the Laboratory Services and Biobank Group (LSB) at IARC, WHO.</p>
Petar Ozretić	<p>Senior Research Associate at Ruđer Bošković Institute, Head of Laboratory for Hereditary Cancer, Zagreb, Croatia. Adjunct Assistant Professor at Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Osijek, Croatia.</p>



Carina Ladeira	Professor, Higher School of Health Technologies of Lisbon – Polytechnic University of Lisbon. Department of Diagnosis Sciences, Therapeutics and Public Health. Researcher in H&TRC- Health & Technology Research Center and NOVA - National School Public Health Research Centre.
Valesca Retèl	Head Health Technology Assessment (HTA) department, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Professor translational HTA - Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Pierre Saintigny	Department of Medical Oncology, Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon, France ; Univ Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, INSERM 1052, CNRS 5286, Centre Léon Bérard, Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon, Lyon 69008, France.
Dipak Sapkota	Professor, Department of Oral Biology, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Oslo, Norway - Academic editor of The Norwegian Dental Journal
Merva Soluk Tekkeşin	Grant Awarding Coordinator of the COST Action INTERCEPTOR Department of Oral Pathology – Dentistry Faculty, Ankara University - Ankara, Turkiye
Vito Carlo Alberto Caponio	Professor, Department of Life Sciences, Health and Health Professions, Link Campus University, Via del Casale Di San Pio V 44, Rome, 00165, Italy
Nicola Cirillo	Professor, Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine, University of Foggia, Italy; Principal Investigator, SCALPEL “SalivaomiCs as a non-invAsive Liquid biopsy for PrEcision diagnostics in oral cancer” - Acronimo: SCALPEL, finanziato nell’ambito del bando a cascata SPOKE 3 – Università di Roma La Sapienza - CUP B53C22006120001 nell’ambito dell’Iniziativa D3 4 HEALTH - Digital Driven Diagnostics, prognostics and therapeutics for sustainable Health care, finanziata a valere delle risorse previste dal Fondo complementare al Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza - Linea di investimento PNC-I.1 - Progetto PNC0000001 - Responsabile Scientifico prof. Nicola Cirillo.