

Progression independent of relapse



# (PIRA) *in* MS



Mestre (VENEZIA)

HOTEL NH VENEZIA LAGUNA PALACE  
Viale Ancona, 2

**6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**OCTOBER**  
2022

The concept of progression independent of relapse “PIRA” as a hallmark of the disease even in the earliest phase and during the disease-modifying treatment, is emerging in the last few years. It describes those patients that, even in the absence of classical clinical/radiological events, have an insidious disease activity which is unnoticed by the patient or physician in the early phase of the disease, whereas it becomes clinically relevant later on disease course. This could be mainly characterized by neurodegenerative mechanisms rather than inflammatory disease activity and its measure is fairly beyond the sensitivity of the conventional MRI. One of the expressions of such silent activity may be a surface-in gradient of cortical, thalamic and spinal cord grey matter damage, which is a primary key component of the demyelination and neurodegeneration processes and provides the best clinical correlate in terms of long term disability accumulation. A second emerging relevant sign of silent activity is represented by the “smouldering” lesions which have been neuropathologically and radiologically well described and which have been proposed as one of the major determinants of disability progression.

According to this evidence, the unique use of No Evidence of Disease Activity (NEDA) status (no relapses, no new T2 and/or Gd-enhancing lesions, no EDSS change) is not completely appropriate to identify patients at high risk of a severe clinical outcome. The main goal of this symposium will be to better elucidate the most relevant molecular and radiological biomarkers of silent disease activity with special focus on Neuropathological, Imaging and CSF data.

## SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

*Prof.* **Massimiliano Calabrese**,  
The Multiple Sclerosis Center of University Hospital of Verona

## SCIENTIFIC SECRETARIAT

**Damiano Marastoni,**  
**Annalisa Colombi,**  
**Valentina Camera,**  
**Elisa Colato**

**È prevista una sessione dedicata ai giovani (età inferiore ai 35 anni) che vogliono presentare i loro dati in linea col tema del congresso.**

Per partecipare è necessario inviare un abstract di massimo 500 parole a [massimiliano.calabrese@univr.it](mailto:massimiliano.calabrese@univr.it)

includendo nome, cognome, numero di telefono

**ENTRO IL 31 luglio 2022**

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Thursday **6** OCTOBER 2022

10:00 • Registration of participants

10:30 • Welcome and Introduction to the Meeting  
**M. Calabrese**

### 10:40 • **YOUNG SESSION**

Chairs: **Valentina Camera, Agnese Tamanti, Elisa Colato**

12:20 • *Light Lunch*

### • **I SESSION**

Chairs: **Bruno Bonetti, Massimiliano Calabrese**

14:00 • MS - time to abandon our current classification  
**Ludwig Kappos**

14:30 • Is MS a progressive disease from onset? PIRA in an Italian cohort of CIS and early RRMS patients  
**Maria Pia Amato**

14:55 • Profiling the Progressive MS patient responder to treatment  
**Maria Pia Sormani**

15:20 • *Coffee Break*

### • **II SESSION**

Chairs: **Luca Massacesi, Alberto Gajofatto**

16:00 • Biomarker of PIRA/MRI  
**Massimiliano Calabrese**

16:25 • Immunophenotype and personalized therapy in MS  
**Luca Battistini**

16:50 • Synaptic plasticity and connection failure in the MS brain  
**Massimiliano Di Filippo**

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Friday **7** OCTOBER 2022

8:30 • Opening

### • **III SESSION**

Chairs: **Claudio Gasperini, Francesco Crescenzo**

8:30 • La RM del futuro per rendere la progressione un ricordo del passato  
**Massimo Filippi**

9:00 • Advanced imaging of grey matter damage  
**Cristina Granziera**

9:30 • Brain atrophy in MS: from research to clinical applications  
**Nicola De Stefano**

9:55 • New MRI markers of Progression  
**Rocca Maria Assunta**

10:20 • Smouldering MS: progression beyond focal inflammatory activity  
**Antonio Scalfari**

10:45 • *Coffee Break*

### • **IV SESSION**

Chairs: **Damiano Marastoni, Annalisa Colombi**

11:15 • Extracellular vesicles in the inflamed brain  
**Roberto Furlan**

11:40 • Chronic active MS lesions: from neuropathology and MRI to clinical trials  
**Martina Absinta**

12:05 • Neuropathological basis of MS progression  
**Roberta Magliozzi**

12:30 • The role of iron rim lesions in disease progression in multiple sclerosis  
**Simon Hametner**

12:55 • Closing and remarks  
**Massimiliano Calabrese**

13:15 • Questionnaire ECM

100  
ADDRESSEES

**Medical Doctors**  
specializing in

neurology, neurosurgery, general medicine, radiology, geriatrics, internal medicine,  
psychiatry, physical medicine e rehabilitation.

Pharmacists, Speech Therapists, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Rehabilitation therapists,  
Psychologists-Psychotherapists, Radiological technicians, Neurophysiopathology technicians.

**CREDITI ECM: 9**

**FACULTY**

Martina Absinta - *Milano*  
Maria Pia Amato - *Firenze*  
Luca Battistini - *Roma*  
Bruno Bonetti - *Verona*  
Massimiliano Calabrese - *Verona*  
Valentina Camera - *Verona*  
Elisa Colato - *Verona*  
Annalisa Colombi - *Verona*

Francesco Crescenzo - *Verona*  
Nicola De Stefano - *Siena*  
Massimiliano Di Filippo - *Perugia*  
Massimo Filippi - *Milano*  
Roberto Furlan - *Milano*  
Alberto Gajofatto - *Verona*  
Claudio Gasperini - *Roma*  
Cristina Granziera - *Basilea*  
Simon Hametner - *Vienna*

Ludwig Kappos - *Basilea*  
Roberta Magliozzi - *Verona*  
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