

The National Biomedical Science Conference
At the Crossroads of Research and Laboratory Medicine
Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd May, 2022
UOM Valletta Campus

Monday 2nd May

Time

08:00 – 09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 – 09:30 OPENING

09:30 – 10:00 SPECIAL SESSION

Dr Isabel Dombrink Regulation of In Vitro Diagnostics in the EU - Implementation of the IVDR in a Laboratory

10:00 – 10:40 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Prof Joseph Borg Mitochondrial Diseases; MELAS

Mr Ian Brincat When Colour Deceives – A Case of Eltrombopag *Interference*

10:40 – 11:10 COFFEE BREAK

11:10 – 13:00 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr Graziella Zahra SARS-CoV 2 and the Others; Investigating the nasopharyngeal microbial community in COVID-19 positive and negative patients

Prof Stephanie Bezzina Wettinger TargetID: How A Multi-Omics Project will Improve Clinical Applications

Ms Charmaine Vella Muscat Characterisation of B cell clonal expansion following SARS-CoV-2 infection in a unique Maltese cohort

Ms Ioana-Beatrice Neamtu Bioinformatic analyses: Predicting functionality of a *Pluralibacter gergoviae* pFB2.1 *cer*-like site and its role in global pathogenicity dissemination

Dr Rosienne Farrugia Genomics of Rare Diseases: Identifying local disease-causing variants using High Throughput Sequencing

Ms Chanelle Cilia Variants in ADAMTS20, TGF- β 2, and SELP as possible determinants of early-onset familial osteoporosis and low BMD in Malta

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH

14:00 – 15:15 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Mr Nicholas Caruana Pedersen Optimising Methods for Stem Cell Factor Production Using an In Vitro Cell Culture System

Ms Sephora Camilleri Promoter Assays of the Human KLF1 gene

Ms Rebecca Mohnani Optimising methods for the in vitro production of red blood cells from human peripheral blood

Ms Janine Saccasan A comparison between the detection rates of pathogens causing sepsis in paediatric cases up to one year of age via conventional blood culture methods and real-time polymerase chain reaction assay

15:15 – 15:30 POSTER SESSION

Dr Tessabelle Sultana Evans Gastrointestinal Multiplex PCR: Exploring prevalence of *Dientamoeba fragilis* in Malta.

Ms Marichela Schembri WGS Uncovers novel gene variants in early-onset familial osteoporosis in Malta

Mr Mark Joseph Sultana Optimization of Anti-retroviral Therapy - The Role of Pharmacogenetics in HIV Treatment

Ms Rosann Zammit Cassar *Mycoplasma genitalium*: Prevalence, Macrolide Resistance and Impact on Clinical Outcomes.

15:30 – 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

16:00 – 16:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof Christopher Mason Human multiomic adaptations to spaceflight and implications for Mars missions

Tuesday 3rd May

Time

08:00 – 08:30 REGISTRATION

08:30 – 09:00 KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof Charles Savona Ventura The History of Biomedical Chemistry in Malta

09:00 – 10:15 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Ms Roberta Camilleri Blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm with bone marrow involvement: Case Report

Ms Charlene Busuttill Pan-TRK Immunohistochemistry in a Secretory Carcinoma of the Salivary Gland: A Case Report

Dr David Pisani A rare case of neuroendocrine transdifferentiation in cutaneous melanoma

Mr Roderick Busuttil Breast Implant-Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma: Case Report

10:15 – 10:45 COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 12:20 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr Jeanesse Scerri Tumour Molecular Profiling for Precision Medicine

Ms Vasiliki Patsaki Identifying the link between viral infections and the development of cancerous growths

Mr Malcolm Ghirxi Histopathological Findings of the Cardiac Conduction System in Sudden Unexpected Death in the Maltese population.

Dr Chris Role The Biomedical laboratory in Psychiatry

Ms Claudia Bartolo Intersex and Fertility: Ethical Considerations

12:20 – 13:20 LUNCH

13:20 – 14:35 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Prof Joseph Borg Identification of Mutations in the F8 gene of Maltese Haemophilia A Patients

Ms Rebecca Spiteri Identification of Mutations In The FVII And FXIII Genes of Maltese Patients with Unexplained Bleeding Tendency

Dr Gabriella Guo Sciriha Corneal Dystrophy Allelic Variant Comparison between Maltese and Worldwide Populations, and an In-Depth Investigation of the Causative Mutation Variant Present in a Maltese Family that Phenotypically Exhibit Granular Corneal Dystrophy Type1

Ms Natalie Ciantar Two novel frameshift variants leading to Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease discovered in Malta.

14:35 – 15:15 SPECIAL SESSION

Dr Melchior Cini and Mr Ian Gauci Borda MCST Research Funding Opportunities

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 – 16:15 DISCUSSION

The Future of Biomedical Science

16:15 – 16:30 CLOSING