



Reports from the 17th International Congress on Thrombosis

Bologna, Italy, October 26–30, 2002

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16 figures, 29 tables, 2002

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P.O. Box, CH-4009 Basel (Switzerland)
Printed in Italy by Tipografia Moderna, Bologna
ISBN 3-8055-7617-X

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Preface

The International Congress on Thrombosis regularly organized by the Mediterranean League against Thromboembolic Diseases in the "even" years is an established biennial event and enjoys a high profile within the scientific community committed to thrombosis research and related topics. The meeting vaunts the following distinctive features. First, major emphasis is given to clinical problems from applied pathogenic studies to diagnostic methods, clinical pharmacology and therapeutic trials, along with the criteria of evidence-based medicine. Second, attention is focused on educational aspects to foster the achievement of uniform standards of clinical practice in the Mediterranean area, with the collaboration of scientist colleagues from all other areas of Europe and many parts of the world.

After Porto hosted the first Mediterranean Congress of the new millennium in 2000, Bologna was selected by the Council of the League as the venue for this event in 2002. The Congress took place under the scientific and organisational responsibility of our two groups, active for many years in thrombosis research at Bologna and Florence Universities. Although there are many historical and cultural differences between these two cities that are separated by the Apennine mountains, our two groups share the same vision in medical culture and clinical science. We have therefore chosen to cooperate closely to continue the tradition of the Mediterranean Congresses on Thrombosis, by organizing together this event in Italy.

Bologna is the seat of the oldest, still active University of the western world and celebrated its ninth centennial anniversary in 1988. In the year 2000, Bologna was one of the European capital cities of culture and many of its monuments

were restored to their original splendour for that occasion. Bologna embodies the heritage of a great school of scientific thought, brought forward by scientists like Mondino, Valsalva, Galvani, Malpighi, Marconi and many others.

The scientific program of this congress was devised in collaboration with leading scientists from all over the world. These scientists joined the International Scientific Committee, that is therefore the prime group responsible for the program, together with the Officers of the League and the Local Organizing Committee.

The response from most of the research groups active in thrombosis research has been very positive. The Congress included 6 plenary lectures, 18 State of the Art Lectures, 5 "Focus on" Sessions, 13 Symposia and 6 Spotlight Sessions. The 419 abstracts of free communications submitted were carefully assessed and allocated as follows: 158 oral communications and 261 posters.

The scientific interest of this material is outstanding; however, for organizational and budgetary reasons we had to operate a selection based on the typology of reports to be published in the Official Journal of the Mediterranean League, *Pathophysiology of Haemostasis and Thrombosis*. We chose therefore to publish as official report of the Congress, the Plenary Lectures, the State of the Art Lectures, and the "Focus on" Sessions, even if this selection is only in part representative of the scientific contents of the Congress.

We also agreed to host one of the satellite events of the Congress, i.e. the one on Bemiparin, upon request of Sigma-Tau, Italy, that was a main sponsor of this volume, together with the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio in Bologna.

Another part of the Congress' material has been approved for separate publication, on the initiative of the Publisher Monduzzi, International Proceedings Division, Bologna.

We are aware that only thanks to the help of many friends around the world have we succeeded in maintaining the high

level of excellent Congresses of this series. Lastly, we are happy to acknowledge the unfailing commitment and invaluable contribution of our Organizing Secretariat OSC Bologna, that also worked hard on this publication.

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