INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

153th Course: NEUROEPIDEMIOLOGY: METHODS AND CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

ERICE–SICILY: 3 – 9 MARCH 2017

Sponsored by the: • Italian Ministry of Education, University and Scientific Research • Sicilian Regional Government

TOPICS AND LECTURERS

Longitudinal studies on motor aging
• A. ELBAZ, Hôpital de la Salpêtrière, Paris, FR

Application of statistics to epidemiology
• F. ENDERS, Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, US

Natural history of migraine, risk and protective factors for stroke
• T. KURTH, Institut of Public Health, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, DE

Natural history of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, inferences from epidemiologic researches
• G. LOGROSCINO, University of Bari, IT

Genetics of multiple sclerosis
• F. MARTINELLI BONESCHI, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, IT

Disease modifying effect on natural history of neurodegenerative diseases
• A. SCALFARI, Imperial College London, London, UK

Sex, gender and dementia
• M.M. MIELKE, Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, US

Genetic epidemiology
• R. OTTMAN, Columbia University, New York, NY, US

Epidemiology of multiple sclerosis
• M. PUGLIATTI, University of Ferrara, IT

Neuroepidemiologic studies in developing countries
• P.-M. PREUX, Université de Limoges, FR

Surveys in neurology; analytic studies; clinical trials
• W.A. ROCCA, Mayo Clinic, College of Medicine, Rochester, MN, US

Vitamin D and multiple sclerosis
• G. SAVETTIERI, University of Palermo, IT

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The main purpose of the Course is to illustrate the most important epidemiological approaches to the investigation of neurological disorders. The course has been designed in order to provide information on the methods of epidemiology (descriptive, analytic, experimental) and on the use of statistics in epidemiological studies.

In addition, workshops and seminars will be planned on specific topics of Neuroepidemiology (descriptive and analytic epidemiology of Parkinson’s diseases Stroke, Dementias, Multiple Sclerosis). A section on methodology in genetic epidemiology of neurological diseases will be planned to present the strategies and the techniques of this important field of investigation.

APPLICATIONS

Persons wishing to attend the Course should contact:

• Professor Marco D’AMELIO
  Dipartimento di Biomedicina Sperimentale e Neuroscienze Cliniche
  Sezione di Neurologia
  Via G. La Loggia, 1 – 90129 Palermo, IT
  Tel/fax +39.091.655160
  e-mail: marco.damelio@unipa.it

They should specify:

i) full name, address, age and nationality;
ii) qualifications and present position.

PLEASE NOTE

Participants should arrive in Erice on 3 march not later than 5 pm.

POETIC TOUCH

According to legend, Erice, son of Venus and Neptune, founded a small town on top of a mountain (750 metres above sea level) more than three thousand years ago. The founder of modern history — i.e. the recording of events in a methodic and chronological sequence as they really happened without reference to mythical causes — the great Thucydides (~500 B.C.), writing about events connected with the conquest of Troy (1183 B.C.) said: «After the fall of Troy some Trojans on their escape from the Achaei arrived in Sicily by boat and as they settled near the border with the Sicanians all together they were named Elymi: their towns were Segesta and Erice.» This inspired Virgil to describe the arrival of the Trojan royal family in Erice and the burial of Anchises, by his son Aeneas, on the coast below Erice. Homer (~1000 B.C.), Theocritus (~300 B.C.), Polybius (~200 B.C.), Horace (~20 B.C.), and others have celebrated this magnificent spot in Sicily in their poems. During seven centuries (XIII-XIX) the town of Erice was under the leadership of a local oligarchy, whose wisdom assured a long period of cultural development and economic prosperity which in turn gave rise to the many churches, monasteries and private palaces which you see today.

In Erice you can admire the Castle of Venus, the Cyclopean Walls (~800 B.C.) and the Gothic Cathedral (~1300 A.D.). Erice is at present a mixture of ancient and medieval architecture. Other masterpieces of ancient civilization are to be found in the neighbourhood: at Motya (Phoenician), Segesta (Elymian), and Selinunte (Greek). On the Aegadian Islands — theatre of the decisive naval battle of the first Punic War (264-241 B.C.) — suggestive neolithical and paleolithical vestiges are still visible: the grottoes of Favignana, the carvings and murals of Levanzo. Splendid beaches are to be found at San Vito Lo Capo, Scopello, and Cufaro, and a wild and rocky coast around Monte Cofano: all at less than one hour’s drive from Erice.

More information about the «Ettore Majorana» Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture can be found on the WWW at the following address: http://www.cssem.infn.it