

First ICOD Symposium

Innovative therapeutic approaches for cognitive impairment in Down syndrome

In occasion of the World Down syndrome Day (21st of march 2022)

Troina, March 20- 21st 2022
CITTADELLA DELL'OASI
Troina, Italy

Register to receive the ZOOM link:

https://itlav.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrce6grjiwIHNeQ261y6XaPUBvdX_mD7Qn-



Scientific Programme ICOD Committee Coordinator

Filippo Caraci (*University of Catania & Oasi
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Renata Bartesaghi (*Bologna*)
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Mara Dierssen (*Barcelona*)
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Beatriz Fagundo (*Barcelona*)
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Lucio Nitsch (*Naples*)
Pier Vincenzo Piazza (*Bordeaux*)
The Italian Task Force for DS

Local Scientific Committee

**Eleonore Venin, Lorenzo Mercadante, Alba
Romeo, Concetta Barone, Corrado Romano,
Serafino Buono, Claudia Guerrera, Marilena
Recupero, Margherita Grasso**

Local Organizing Secretariat

**Eleonora Di Fatta, Fabio Vezzuto,
Salvatore Calaciura, Iva Carrubba, Rosi Di Giorgio**

Rationale

Down syndrome (DS) causes life-long cognitive impairment which results in significant consequences for the individuals, their families and society leading to a reduced **quality of life and social stigma**. Despite this heavier social burden and the greater medical needs, **there is not an approved therapy for DS-related cognitive impairment yet**.

The ICOD project (Improving COgnition in Down syndrome), funded by European Union, aims to address these unmet clinical needs with a first-in-class new pharmacological treatment (AEF0217) specifically designed to address the core cognitive impairment of individuals with DS: **working memory**. Working memory and memory flexibility play an important role in everyday tasks like following instructions, planning activities or understanding a conversation.

The **first ICOD symposium** will take place in **Troina in 2022 at IRCCS Oasi Research Institute** on the occasion of the World Down syndrome Day (March 21st). The symposium will be specifically dedicated to **increase the knowledge about innovative therapeutic approaches** in the management of cognitive deficits in DS.

All attendants in Troina for the ICOD symposium have to register to the following link: <http://formazioneweb.oasi.en.it/Home/ViewEdizione/20862>

This event will include:

- **Pre-symposium meeting** (March 20th, 16:00-19:00): the first face-to-face meeting of the ICOD consortium.
- The World Down syndrome Day (March 21st) will be dedicated to discuss in lay terms the most relevant findings in the field of cognition in DS. **Discussion sections** have been planned for **families and associations** to promote face-to-face interaction with researchers involved in the ICOD project as well as with other researchers working in the field of DS.
- This event will be designed in close **cooperation with the European Down syndrome Association** (EDSA) and associations of each participating European country; in particular with Italian Down syndrome organizations, such as the Italian Association for Down syndrome individuals (AIPD), the National Coordination of the Italian Associations of individuals with Down syndrome ([/https://www.coordown.it](https://www.coordown.it)).

Sunday March 20th 2022

16:00h - 19:00h

Pre-symposium: the first F2F meeting of the ICOD project

The European consortium is led by IMIM (Rafael de la Torre, Barcelona, Spain) and AELIS FARMA (Stephanie Monlezun & Pier Vincenzo Piazza, Bordeaux, France) in collaboration with Oasi Research Institute (Filippo Caraci, UniCT, Catania & Oasi Troina, Italy), Institut Jérôme Lejeune (Sophie Durand, Paris, France), Centre Hospitalier Universitaire (Renaud Touraine, Saint-Etienne, France) and the Hospital Universitario de la Princesa (Diego Real de Asúa, SERMAS, Madrid, Spain).

Monday March 21st, 2022

8.40-9.00

Institutional greetings and Opening remarks:

Regional Health Care Councilor Ruggero Razza,
Rector of the University of Catania, Francesco Priolo,
General Director of Oasi Research Institute, Claudio Volante,
President of Oasi Research Institute, Silvio Rotondo,
Scientific Director of Oasi Research Institute,
Raffaele Ferri

09:00h - 09:15h

Introduction to the ICOD symposium

(Filippo Caraci, Italy)

Session 1: Cognition in DS Introduced and moderated by Filippo Caraci (Italy)

09:15 - 09:45

Understanding and treating cognitive deficits in DS: the innovative approach of the ICOD project

Rafael de la Torre, Spain

09:45 - 10:15

What is behind cognitive dysfunction in DS? From understanding the neurobiology to therapy

Mara Dierssen, Spain

10:15 - 10:45

Cognitive assessment in DS: what, why and how

Beatriz Fagundo, Spain

10:45 - 11:30

Discussion with families and associations: expectations about therapy for cognitive deficits: what do families know and what they expect.

Chaired by Diego Real De Asua (Spain) & Marzia Perluigi, (Italy)

11:30 - 11.45 / Break

11:45 - 12:15

The involvement and expectations of families in clinical research: ethical aspects

Ségolène Aymé, (France)

12:15 - 13:30

Scientists meet DS associations and families: the key role of Italian DS Task Force

Lucio Nitsch & Renata Bartesaghi, (Italy)

13:30 - 15:00 / Lunch

Monday March 21st, 2022

Session 2: Cognition in DS **Introduced and moderated** **by Rafael De La Torre (Spain)**

15.00-15.30

Ageing in DS, a genetic form of **Alzheimer's disease**

Marzia Perluigi, (Italy)

15.30-16.00

An innovative psychometric tool for the **evaluation of cognitive deficits in DS:** **the Bordeaux maze test**

Nicole Etchamendy, (France)

16.00-16.15 / Break

Session 3: Innovative strategies for the **diagnosis and treatment of cognitive** **deficits in DS** **Introduced and moderated by Filippo** **Drago (Italy)**

16.15 - 17.00

AEF0217: a new path for the treatment **of cognitive impairment in DS**

Pier Vincenzo Piazza, (France)

17:00 - 17:30 (20 min talk, 10 min questions)

Discussion with families and **associations: Timing of therapies for DS:** **when, what, how long.**

Chaired by Stephanie Monlezun (France) &
Stefano Vicari (Italy)

17:30 - 18:00

Psychopathological features, cognitive **dysfunction and comorbidity in DS**

Stefano Vicari (Italy)

18:00 - 18:30

The ICOD project (Improving **COgnition in Down syndrome): what** **will it bring to families?**

Rafael De La Torre & Filippo Caraci

18:30 - 19:00

Discussion with families and **associations: the importance of** **research for people with DS**

Chaired by Sophie Durand and Renaud Touraine,
(France)

19:00 - 19:15

Concluding remarks

Rafael De La Torre, (Spain)

